

ISRAELI DRILLS: Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai jumps down from a Merkava tank after he was briefed by army officers during an Israeli army exercise on the Golan Heights Wednesday. The high land plateau that Israel occupied in 1967, is one of Israel's main army exercise areas. Syria is demanding a return of the Golan as a precondition for peace negotiations with Israel (AFP photo)

In other incidents, a

But Tuesday, six suspected Islamist activists were killed.

The recent upsurge of violence began after the June 5 parliamentary elec-

More than 60,000 people have died in the insurgency.

For Uday

Germany was used in sending the ball to our court... We ... believe that the ball is in Germany's court. Bonn initiated the row. Bonn must

"It is ready to defend itself and protect the inter-

"Israel has slammed the door on peace in the region and opened the prospect of war," he told

Israeli-Syrian peace

Mr. Netanyahu has rejected Syria's demand that the talks resume on the basis of exchanging occupied land for peace

the world during the match to prove that he is healthy," the opposition group said in a statement faxed to the Associated Press.

Diplomatic sources said the Turkish minister will meet Tuesday with Mr. Vedrine and with junior officials of the French Foreign Ministry. Turkey has been in a dispute with Poland, Hungary as well as Estonia, Slovenia and Cyprus — but left out Turkey, which had also applied for membership in the European Community.

There are, however, no particular bilateral problems between France and Turkey, both sides having referred to their relations as

Many defendants also face additional charges including participating in nine bombing attacks against banks and commercial centres in Cairo, attacking police guards in

Last Tuesday, suspected militants killed five policemen and a passerby in the attack in the southern Egyptian city of Manshuta.

The violence has left more than 1,100 people dead.

The London-based Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation said workers were installing an elevator to the top floor of Al Shaab International Stadium for Uday.

| | |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| 07:40 |Muscat, Dubai (RJ) |
| 11:00 |Colombo (RJ) |
| 13:10 |Kuwait (RJ) |
| 15:55 |New York, Amsterdam (RJ) |
| 17:30 |London (RJ) |
| 18:55 |Doha (RJ) |
| 19:10 |Athens (RJ) |
| 19:45 |Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ) |
| 19:45 |Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ) |
| 19:50 |Moscow (RJ) |
| 20:25 |Kuwait (add) (RJ) |
| 23:15 |Dhahran (add) (RJ) |

Other Flights

| | |
|-------|----------------------|
| 09:25 |Kiev (add) (RJ) |
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DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:45 Beirut (RJ)
07:45 Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Moscow (RJ)
11:35 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
12:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:45 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:00 Doha (RJ)
13:00 Amsterdam, Montreal,
Toronto (RJ)
13:10 Paris (RJ)

Other Flights

| | |
|-------|-------------------------|
| 04:00 | Athens (GA) |
| 06:15 | Istanbul (TK) |
| 08:45 | Beirut (ME) |
| 08:50 | Amsterdam (GA) |
| 09:10 | London (BA) |
| 10:25 | Kiev (add) (6U) |
| 13:00 | Al 'Arish (add) (PF) |
| 14:30 | Riyadh (SV) |
| 14:45 | Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF) |
| 15:30 | Annaba (Algeria) (AH) |
| 15:30 | Al 'Arish (add) (PF) |
| 17:00 | Rome (AZ) |
| 21:10 | Tel Aviv (LY) |
| 22:00 | Cairo (MS) |
| 02:30 | Amsterdam (KL) |
| 08:45 | Beirut (ME) |
| 10:00 | Dubai (EK) |
| 10:25 | London (BA) |

Royal Wings
(For Thursday and Friday)
07:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
09:15 Agaba (RW)
10:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
17:45 Amman (Marka Airport)
(RW)
18:55 Tel Aviv (RW)
21:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
23:50 Agaba (RW)

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweethill, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
532785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Serra Sancta Church Tel.
522366
African Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Aqaba | 24/37 |
| Deserts..... | 15/33 |
| Jordan Valley | 23/36 |

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre637111
Civil Defence Department
.....661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue
.....630341
Civil Defence Emergency199

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Mussein Medical Centre
813813/32

GUIDE A

Khalidi Maternity, ...644281/6
Akheh Maternity, ...642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity
642362
Malhas, J. Amman ...636140
Palestine, Shmeissani 607071
Shmeissani Hospital ...669313
University Hospital ...845845
Al-Muassher Hospital
...672727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Abili, Abdali ...664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen
...777101/3
Al-Bashir, ...775111/26
Army, Marisa ...896111/15
Queen Alia Hospital
...602340/50
Amal Hospital ...674155
The Arab Centre for Heart
and Special Surgery ...865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital
...091983323
Zarqa National Hospital
...091900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)86732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital
...091930990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital
...021275555
Greek Catholic Hospital
...021272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital
...021247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital
...031314111

QALIA

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel 08/533200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

| | |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 09:30 | Jeddah (add) (RJ) |
| 09:30 | Sanaa (RJ) |
| 09:45 | New Delhi (RJ) |
| 10:05 | Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ) |
| 10:05 | Bombay (RJ) |
| 10:20 | Bahrain (RJ) |
| 10:25 | Beirut (RJ) |
| 10:40 | Muscat, Dubai (RJ) |
| 11:00 | Colombo (RJ) |
| 11:30 | Kuwait (RJ) |
| 11:55 | New York, Amsterdam (RJ) |
| 17:30 | London (RJ) |
| 18:55 | Doha (RJ) |
| 19:10 | Athens (RJ) |
| 19:10 | Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ) |
| 19:45 | Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ) |
| 19:50 | Moscow (RJ) |
| 20:25 | Kuwait (add) (RJ) |
| 23:15 | Dhahran (add) (RJ) |

Other Flights

| | |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 09:25 | Kiev (add) (RJ) |
|-------|-----------------------|

FLYING

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| 11:00 |Al 'Arish (add) (PF) |
| 13:00 |Riyadh (SV) |
| 13:55 |Doha (GF) |
| 14:30 |Al 'Arish (add) (PF) |
| 14:40 |Sharjah (AH) |
| 16:00 |Rome (AZ) |
| 19:50 |Tel Aviv (LY) |
| 21:00 |Cairo (MS) |
| 21:10 |Beirut (ME) |
| 01:20 |Amsterdam, Beirut (KL) |
| 05:40 |London (BA) |
| 09:00 |Dubai (EK) |

Royal Wings (RW)
(For Thursday and Friday)

| | |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 08:45 |Aqaba (RW) |
| 10:05 |Amman (QAIA) (RW) |
| 10:50 | Amman (Marka Airport) (RW) |
| 18:20 |Tel Aviv (RW) |
| 19:30 |Amman (QAIA) (RW) |
| 22:20 |Aqaba (RW) |
| 23:50 | Amman (Marka Airport) (RW) |

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 06:45 |Beirut (RJ) |
| 07:45 |Kuwait (RJ) |
| 10:15 |Moscow (RJ) |
| 11:35 | Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ) |
| 12:10 |Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) |
| 12:20 | Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ) |
| 12:45 | Amsterdam, New York (RJ) |
| 13:00 |Doha (RJ) |
| 13:00 | Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ) |
| 13:10 |Paris (RJ) |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 13:20 | Athens (RJ) |
| 13:25 | London (RJ) |
| 15:00 | Kuwait (RJ) |
| 18:15 | Dhahran (RJ) |
| 21:00 | Madrid (RJ) |
| 21:10 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 21:20 | Tsmann (RJ) |
| 21:25 | Jeddah (RJ) |
| 22:00 | Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) |
| 22:25 | Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ) |
| 01:00 | Dubai (RJ) |
| 01:30 | Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| Other Flights | |
| 04:00 | Athens (AQ) |
| 06:15 | Istanbul (TK) |
| 08:45 | Beirut (ME) |
| 08:50 | Amsterdam (GA) |
| 09:10 | London (BA) |
| 10:25 | Kiev (add) (SU) |
| 13:00 | Al 'Arish (add) (EP) |
| 14:30 | Riyadh (SV) |
| 14:45 | Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF) |
| 15:30 | Annaba (Algeria) (AP) |
| 15:30 | Al 'Arish (add) (PH) |
| 17:00 | Rome (AZ) |
| 21:10 | Tel Aviv (LY) |
| 22:00 | Cairo (MS) |
| 02:30 | Amsterdam (KL) |
| 08:45 | Beirut (ME) |
| 10:00 | Dubai (EK) |
| 10:25 | London (BA) |
| Royal Wings | |
| (For Thursday and Friday) | |
| 07:45 | Amman (Mada Airport) (RW) |
| 09:15 | Aqaba (RW) |
| 10:30 | Amman (QAIA) (RW) |
| 17:45 | Amman (Mada Airport) (RW) |
| 18:55 | Tel Aviv (RW) |
| 21:30 | Amman (QAIA) (RW) |
| 22:00 | Aqaba (RW) |

WHAT'S GOING ON
FILM
"Welcome" at the American
auday at 5:00 p.m.
DARAT AL FUNUN
SUMMER '97 FEST
Paintings by Rafa Nasiri of Iraq
and Najia Mehadjji at the
Middle Hall.
Paintings by Jordanian artists
at the Middle Hall.
Sculpture, drawings, and paintings
by Rajwa Ali.
Paintings by contemporary Arab
artists at the House.
Paintings by children of Zaid
about the problem of pollution, at
the House.
EXHIBITION
Paintings by Basem Al Mahdi at the
Association Gallery, Jaffa.
Paintings and Beni Hamud
at the exhibition (rugs, carpets,
drawings and baskets) at the
Zaman, until Sept. 20.



VISIT TO VTC: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday visits the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) where he is briefed on the organisation's future plans and its role in solving poverty and unemployment among citizens. Dr. Majali called for preparing studies on the needs of the Jordanian labour market (Petra photo)

Opposition groups demand retraction of official's statements

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's 11 opposition groups Wednesday attacked statements made recently by Minister of Interior Nuthir Rashid that they claim were aimed at distorting their image, and demanded the government denounce these statements and prevent similar harmful behaviour in the future.

"The Minister of Interior has repeatedly slandered the opposition parties...the last instance was during a Jordan Television interview last week in which the minister used inappropriate terms which can by no means be condoned," declared a letter sent to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, signed on behalf of the opposition groups by Mohammad Zu'bi, head of a coordination committee of the opposition parties in Jordan.

The letter stated the following:

1. The unjust campaign spearheaded by the Minister of Interior against the

opposition parties contravenes the Constitution and the National Charter.

2. The timing of this campaign clearly defines the position of the government and refutes the government's claim that it adopts a neutral position.

3. The terms used by the Minister of Interior against the opposition parties harm the image of the government more than offending the political parties, and

4. It seems that the minister, while attacking the opposition parties, is unable to adapt to the new democratic climate in Jordan.

In the face of such behaviour, the opposition parties can resort only to legal and democratic means to counter the minister's attacks, continued the letter.

The statement also accused the minister of exploiting the official media to distort the parties' image and turn the public against them.

3 suspects arrested in medical association fraud

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Basem Dajani Wednesday thanked the Anti-Corruption Department for arresting three suspects allegedly involved in the embezzlement of a total of JD 724,000 from the association's pension fund.

"In January 1996 the sum was discovered missing from the association, prompting the JMA board to report the matter to the police, who immediately started investigations," Dr. Dajani commented.

He told the Jordan Times

that the theft of the funds was accomplished through manipulation of receipts.

The suspects issued two types of receipts, one to JMA members and the other to the JMA board, each denoting different figures, he elaborated.

The Attorney General was informed upon discovery of the illicit operation and immediately opened an investigation into the matter to determine the persons responsible, he continued.

Subsequent investigations resulted in the arrest of three employees working as accountants and treasurers

at the JMA office. Dr. Dajani said.

The three were later released on bail, but after the public prosecutor realised the enormity of the embezzlement, he ordered the apprehension of the suspects. One was arrested immediately, while the other two remained at large until two weeks ago, he added.

According to Dr. Dajani, the JMA has not yet recovered any of the missing funds, saying the case is now being examined by the judicial authorities.



Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf-Huneidi and the Ambassador of Japan Takayuki Kimura Wednesday sign a contract whereby Japan grants Jordan 50 million yen to purchase media equipment for the Jordan News Agency, Petra (Petra photo)

Japan provides Jordan with grant to purchase modern media equipment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Japan has extended a 50 million yen (\$426,087) grant to Jordan's national news agency, Petra, to finance the purchase of modern reporting and editing equipment and to help improve the agency's operational efficiency.

The agreement was signed Wednesday at the Ministry of Planning by the minister of planning, Rima Khalaf-Huneidi, and the Ambassador of Japan, Takayuki Kimura.

The grant will finance the purchase of photographic, studio, and recording gear, and a host of related equipment and accessories.

This donation falls within the framework of the

Japanese Cultural Grant Aid (CGA) programme, first introduced into Jordan in 1982, whose purpose is to encourage and support cultural (i.e., not directly developmental) activities in the Kingdom and enhance the overall exchange between Jordan and Japan, a Japanese embassy statement said.

Since 1982, Japan has provided 15 CGA grants to Jordan for a total of 601 million yen (\$5,226 million).

Past projects include the purchase of educational equipment for the Ministry of Education (1982), sports equipment for the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped (1986), restoration of archaeological

monuments for the Department of Antiquities (1988), and audio-visual equipment for the public library of Greater Amman Municipality (1993).

Petra, officially established in 1969, is a department of the Ministry of Information. It has five departments: Reporting, Editorial, Technical, Research, and Studies. With a workforce of 200 people, including correspondents in various locations in Jordan and in major capitals of the world, it processes about a quarter-of-a-million words in Arabic and 10,000 in English daily. It has an annual budget of JD 700,000 (\$1 million).

Teachers, refugees protest UNRWA cuts

AMMAN (J.T.) — A decision by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to cut services to Palestinian refugees drew strong protests from teachers employed in the agency's schools and residents of refugee camps in Jordan.

A statement from a group of teachers affiliated with the Jordanian Democratic People's Party (Hashd) addressed to their colleagues described UNRWA's plans as "clearly reflecting its intention to abandon its role and shirk its responsibilities (while) acting (as) part of a plot to liquidate the Palestinian refugee problem within the framework of what is called 'a programme for the application of peace' ending by the year 2000."

UNRWA earlier this month, due to a \$26 million deficit in its 1997 budget, revealed a plan to implement austerity measures, including cancelling the appointment of 249 teachers, cutting university grants, ending its hospitalisation programme for two months, and possibly imposing tuition fees on refugee school children at UNRWA's schools.

"Such moves can only be interpreted to mean that they are part of pressures to end the refugee problem and pave the way for the settlement of the refugees in the diaspora," the statement charged.

It warned UNRWA that such moves could only serve Israel's interests, and urged the agency to pursue its services without any reduction.

The statement called upon the Arab World and the world community to intervene and help the agency shoulder its humanitarian responsibilities toward the refugees.

Heads of refugee camp committees in Jordan meanwhile Wednesday voiced their condemnation of the agency's plans to reduce health and educational services to the refugees.

Azi Wuheidi, a spokesperson for the refugees in the Baqa'a camp, said his party demanded that no reduction be made in the agency's services, and detailed the committees' plan to send a letter to UNRWA's Commissioner General Peter Hansen to express their concerns.

Supplies to be sent to PNA areas

AMMAN (Petra) — Upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, medical supplies will be shipped today to Palestinian National Authority (PNA) areas. "The eight-tonne shipment will be dispatched Thursday," according to Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* "Biodome" at the American Center, Abdoun, on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

* Paintings by Rafa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Dalloul of Syria, and Najia Mehadi at the South Hall.

* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qatout at the Middle Hall.

* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.

* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.

* Paintings by children of Zarga reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Basem Al Mahdi at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 3.

* Art Zaman and Basi Hamida present a Bani Hamida exhibition (rugs, cushions, runners, wall hangings and baskets) at the Al Baidar Hall of Kana Zaman, until Sept. 20.

* Islamic Bookbinding Exhibition at the British Council, Jabal Amman, until Aug. 31.

2 executions scheduled today

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A man and a woman were scheduled to be executed at dawn today at Swaqa prison for the murders of two men in separate incidents in 1996, according to judicial sources.

Raya Musa, 35, was sentenced to death in November 1996 by the Criminal Court after being found guilty of poisoning her husband Ahmad Mire'e on Jan. 3, 1996, with the help of her lover Hassan Faleh, 45, who received a life sentence.

If executed as scheduled, Ms. Musa, the mother of nine children, will become the third woman to be executed in the Kingdom this year.

In June, two women were hanged at the same prison for the murder of a 45-year-

old man in Mafrag in April 1996.

Four months prior to the incident, Mr. Faleh asked Ms. Musa to divorce her husband and marry him, court transcripts said.

Knowing that her husband would not accept a divorce, the two plotted to kill him by means of rat poison and sleeping pills.

Mr. Faleh originally received the death sentence, but the Court of Cassation decided to commute his sentence to a life term, "as he did not actually poison Mr. Mire'e, but was merely waiting for the results."

The second person to be executed today is Khalid Saqa, 27, who was sentenced to death by the Criminal Court after being found guilty of murdering his younger sister in 1996. According to court papers, the victim had dis-

covered that Mr. Saqa was stealing money and jewellery from her house, and disclosed the matter to her family, stating she did not want her brother to continue visiting her.

On the morning of the incident, Mr. Saqa went to his sister's house, argued with her, produced a rope, and strangled her, the court said.

A Royal Decree was issued recently approving both sentences after the Court of Cassation ratified the Criminal Court's rulings.

The scheduled executions will be the 10th and 11th carried out in the Kingdom this year.

Last year, 10 people were put to death in Jordan for committing various crimes.



One of Jordan's earlier fish farms started in the 1980's (file photo)

Official suggests creation of fish research station

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of the animal husbandry department at the Ministry of Agriculture Ibrahim Abu Atileh said Wednesday that Jordan is in need of an integrated research station to improve the quality of local fish and to advise on the best conditions for breeding different types of fish to meet the growing demand of local markets.

Jordan last year produced 533 tonnes of fish from local sources such as ponds and lakes and from the Red Sea, but imports for local consumption amounted to 7,301 tonnes, Mr. Atileh said.

The imported totals were broken down into frozen fish, 2,633 tonnes, and 79 tonnes of dried and smoked fish.

A research station could deal with problems concerning the fish industry, such as breeding and diseases, and could train technicians to deal with these problems, he explained.

Lack of sufficient water and absence of technical expertise in managing fisheries are among the problems currently faced, he added.

According to Mr. Atileh, reservoirs and the King Abdullah Canal in

the Jordan Valley could be utilised to breed fish, adding that should the available surface water be properly managed, Jordan could produce 3,000 tonnes of fish annually, up from the current 350 tonnes.

Mr. Atileh said fishing in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba is limited, with only 26 kilometres of sparsely populated waters available for fishing.

He suggested that Jordan negotiate agreements with nations neighbouring the Red Sea in order to enable Jordanian fishermen to operate within the Arab regional water zones.

Conference ends with formation of association based in Amman

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A constitution for the proposed Association for Professors of English Language and Literature at Arab Universities was endorsed Tuesday at the University of Jordan, with Jordan unanimously chosen as the headquarters for this coalition.

The formulation of this association was one of two recommendations made at the First International Conference on Arabic-English Contrastive and Comparative Studies, which concluded here Wednesday.

According to Lewis Mukattash, head of the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Jordan, the idea for this association was put forward at the 1982 Conference of Departments of English, also held at the University of Jordan.

"The idea (of the organization) is to [bring together] professors of language, literature and translation at Arab universities to exchange views and ideas," Dr. Mukattash told the Jordan Times.

It is beneficial to know what academicians are doing and to be familiar with the study programmes offered at their universities, he added.

One problem faced by Arab professors of English and literature, noted Dr. Mukattash, is publication of their research papers.

He claimed that local publication is of limited value since readership of these papers is small, and said professors of English seek international publication.

"Publishing research in international journals is not an easy task. It takes sometimes up to four years to have your paper published."

The association seeks to remedy this situation by publishing a journal, possibly with international circulation, he explained.

Another major objective stated in the association's constitution was the presentation of the Arab point of view abroad in an objective, explicit, and confident manner.

This idea was echoed during the inaugural speech given by University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh, who

stated that the duties of departments of English language and literature at Arab universities should not be restricted to their traditional roles.

Dr. Gharaibeh emphasised the responsibility of these departments in taking up national issues and, in particular, the image of the Arab Muslim in the world.

A second recommendation suggested that this international conference take place bi-annually.

A Jordanian was selected for the post of association president, along with three other Jordanians to serve as members of the executive committee. Association representatives will be located in every Arab country.

Approximately 150 professors and scholars from Europe, the United States, Africa, and the Arab World participated in this event.

The proceedings of this meeting will be published in one or two volumes, said Dr. Mukattash.

Jordan Times facsimile #696183

Tensions show no sign of easing in divided Bosnian Serb Republic

BANJA LUKA (AFP) — The power struggle between rival Bosnian Serb leaders showed no signs of easing Wednesday one day after Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic tried to enlist support from the army.

A tense stalemate has now been reached with the division of the Bosnian Serb-run half of Bosnia into two rival camps cemented by a meeting between Mrs. Plavsic and a number of top army generals Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Plavsic was backed from half of the Bosnian Serb army's eight senior military commanders Tuesday but was also bitterly attacked by her hardline rivals who support her predecessor Radovan Karadzic, an indicted war criminal.

The pro-Karadzic Bosnian Serb assembly stripped her of her presidential authority over the army Tuesday and ordered the government to draw up plans for the defence of the Bosnian Serb state.

The hardliners also demanded that Ms. Plavsic's

supporters relinquish control of radio and television stations and transmitters which they recently took over near her stronghold of Banja Luka, in northwest Bosnia.

"If that does not happen in the next three days," Tuesday's parliamentary statement said, the assembly had requested that the interior ministry and the prosecutor's office to "use their legal prerogatives."

Control of the media on which most people rely for information, is crucial to both sides in their battle to win support among ordinary Serbs.

With support for the president shown by military commanders in the western half of the Serb Republic, Ms. Plavsic has effectively completed the division across the three pivotal institutions, the police, media and the army.

Out of eight top military commanders in the Bosnian Serb Army, four turned up for the meeting with Ms. Plavsic in Banja Luka.

Two of the generals who

attended Tuesday's meeting command the main army corps in the western areas where she can rely on support. The meeting was also attended by the chief of the air force.

The generals who stayed away, including the Bosnian Serb Army Commander Gen. Pero Colic, are in charge of military units in the eastern section of the Bosnian Serb Republic where Karadzic relies on his support. General Colic went on television later in the day to denounce what he said were attempts by Mrs. Plavsic to "divide the army."

"Mrs. Plavsic has already divided the people and the police, and now she wants to divide the army," Gen. Colic said, but added that the army "remains united and is keeping its distance."

Mrs. Plavsic has been locked in a power struggle with allies of Karadzic for the last two months during which time she has dismissed parliament, called new elections and sacked the interior minister.

Meanwhile postponing

Bosnia's municipal elections because of objections from the hardline Bosnian Serb parliament "is out of the question," an official for the international agency supervising the vote said Wednesday.

Bosnian Serb hardliners meeting Tuesday for a crisis session called over the on-going power struggle within the Serb-run half of Bosnia, said municipal elections should be postponed.

Deputies said that the "military and security conditions" for holding the ballot scheduled for September 13 and 14 were not in place.

Johan Verheyden, a spokesman for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) the agency organising the poll said that decisions taken by the parliament "had no validity."

The Serb's parliament was dissolved by Ms. Plavsic last month in one of the opening shots in her current battle with hardline allies of her predecessor Radovan Karadzic.



An Indian soldier takes aim on Pakistani troops at a border post in the Uri sector of the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged artillery fire along their Kashmir border for the seventh consecutive day (Reuters photo)

India: Firing will not hurt Pakistan talks

NEW DELHI (R) — India Wednesday reaffirmed its commitment to peace talks with Pakistan and said recent cross-border firing in Kashmir was unlikely to cloud negotiations set for next month.

"Foreign secretary talks will go on," junior Foreign Minister Kamla Sinha told Reuters. She was referring to the third round of talks between the two nations' foreign secretaries set for September in New Delhi.

At least nine people have died in an upsurge of firing across the border in divided Kashmir over the past week.

Indian and Pakistani troops traded small arms fire for the seventh consecutive day Wednesday, but Indian officials said the situation was under control.

Mr. Sinha was asked if the hostilities would affect the climate at the coming talks. "No, it will not. Now it is all quiet. No firing is going on at the moment. All is quiet on the western front. The talks will go on in their full spirit," she said.

The foreign secretaries, who are the countries' highest ranking career diplomats, held the first two rounds of talks in March and June. At the latest round

in Islamabad, they announced an agenda for peace talks that included the Kashmir dispute.

"The firing will not have any impact on the foreign secretary-level talks scheduled for next month," Defence Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav told reporters outside of parliament.

"India, by saying it will not let these events affect bilateral talks, is reaffirming its very, very deep commitment to continue the processes of reasoning with Pakistan despite knowing fully well the differences of views on Kashmir are quite intractable," former Indian Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit told Reuters.

Violence preceded the first two rounds of talks, which were launched after a three-year break in high-level contacts due to tensions over Kashmir where India has been fighting a separatist rebellion.

In March, a day after India and Pakistan announced the resumption of talks, a Pakistani paramilitary Ranger was killed in firing with Indian troops across the border between Pakistan and the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Before the second round

of talks in June, Pakistan accused India of increasing tension by violating Pakistani airspace, deploying ballistic missiles near the border and killing a Pakistani army major at the Kashmir border.

India denied that one of its jet fighters had flown over Pakistan, and said the missiles had not been deployed.

Analysts said the artillery exchanges in the past week had been unusually violent and widespread, but were not likely to affect the talks.

"This means nothing for the talks," said Brigadier Vijai Nair, executive director of the Forum for Strategic and Security Studies.

Brig. Nair said Pakistan was eager to revive its economy and stabilise its political situation. Progress in the bilateral talks with India would attract U.S. economic support, he said.

But he said the chances of any compromise in the near term over Kashmir were nil. "To compromise on Kashmir would be suicide," he said.

India controls two thirds of Kashmir and Pakistan the rest, but both nations claim the entire region.

Group starts world's tallest skyscraper in Shanghai

SHANGHAI (R) — A Japanese group Wednesday defied a sagging Shanghai real estate market and broke ground on a \$630 million skyscraper that will become the world's tallest building.

As a Chinese army band blared martial music and a swarm of balloons sailed skyward, Japanese corporate leaders, foreign dignitaries and city officials symbolically poked the first shovels into the soft Shanghai soil.

"I believe success belongs to those with vision," Shanghai's Vice Mayor Zhao Qizheng said during the ceremonies at the construction site in the heart of what will eventually be the city's financial centre.

The Shanghai World Financial Centre will rise up from the new financial heart of the city's Pudong district and tower over the famed Bund — the old, pre-Communist business centre along the waterfront.

When the office tower and hotel is completed in 2001 it will climb 94 storeys or 460 metres, making it eight metres taller than the current world leader, the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur.

The main backer of the project is a subsidiary of the privately held Mori Building Co. Ltd. but it has been joined by 36 other corporate investors, a virtual who's who of Japanese banks, trading firms and insurance companies.

A Mori official said the cost of the building, calculated at current foreign exchange rates, will rise with internal construction work. One-third of the total will be raised from equity and the rest will have to be borrowed.

But the project is moving ahead at a time when Shanghai has gone through its first building boom and is now suffering from a glut of real estate.

Empty and half-empty buildings dot the landscape, some of them abandoned for lack of funds and tenants.

Work began on the Shanghai World Financial Centre almost in the shadow of the Jinmao Tower, an 88-storey skyscraper that will hold its topping out ceremony Thursday.

"Both buildings are going to increase supply enormously," said Sam Crispin, senior manager at property managers First Pacific daves.

The Shanghai World Financial Centre will add 335,700 square metres of total floor space onto the market, which is struggling to absorb supply.

The vacancy rate in Pudong's financial district is expected to soar to 43 per cent next year though it is likely to drop to around 15 per cent by the time the World Financial Centre is ready.

Minoru Mori, president of Mori Building Co. Ltd. brushed aside concerns about the strength of the Shanghai real estate market, saying his project would find plenty of customers.

"There seems to be a lot of empty buildings in Shanghai but if you count the floor space ready to be occupied the vacancy rate is not that high," he told reporters after the ceremony.

"I believe in 2001 when the building is completed, that will be the second boom for high quality buildings," he added. "Then we will be ready."

The great height of the slender building and its construction on soft soil will require special reinforcement, adding to construction costs, moving materials to such heights also means further expense.

Shanghai residents will be able to distinguish the glass and metal covered building not only by its height but also its distinctive round hole near the top.

N. Korean family of 3 defect to South Korea

SEOUL (R) — A North Korean family of three have defected to South Korea via a third country, Seoul's intelligence agency said Wednesday.

In a statement, the agency for national security planning said Suh Chang-Eun, 68, and her daughter Kim Young-Suk, 30, arrived in the western port of Incheon Monday last week. Mr. Suh's son, Kim Ho-Rim, 33, landed at the same port Friday.

The statement gave no details on how they arrived at Incheon.

An official at the agency said the family came to Incheon by boat but declined to say which third country the family sailed from.

"I guess it was difficult for the whole family to come together, so they came separately," said the official who declined to be identified.

The statement said the daughter worked on a farm and the son in a factory.

The announcement of the family's defection comes after confirmation by the United States that North Korea's ambassador to Egypt and his brother and family have been granted asylum in the U.S.

Jang Seung-Il, Pyongyang's envoy to Cairo, is the most senior diplomat to defect from the North.

According to the Ministry of National Unification, more than 800 North Koreans have defected to the South since 1949, and the number has been increasing rapidly since 1993. So far this year 55 have left the Communist North for the South.

North and South Korea have been divided since the end of World War II and are still technically at war after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce rather than a peace agreement.

Meanwhile, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto voiced concern Wednesday that North Korean diplomats' defections to the United States may harm peace talks for the Korean Peninsula.

"Now that four-way peace

talks and other negotiations have started moving ahead, I hope it will have no big impact," Jiji Press quoted Mr. Hashimoto as telling reporters at his official residence.

Besides the peace talks among the two Koreas, China and the United States, the premier also showed concern about a possible impact on Tokyo's negotiation with North Korea on normalising ties, the news agency said.

Last week in Beijing, Japan and North Korea agreed to hold further talks on resuming bilateral talks without setting a date.

Washington announced it had granted political asylum to North Korea's ambassador to Egypt Jang Sung-Gil, his wife, and brother Jang Sung-Ho economic counsellor at North Korea's general delegation in France.

Mr. Jang Sung-Gil is the first North Korean ambassador ever to defect to a Western country. His defection is the most significant since that of North Korea propaganda chief Hwang Jang-Yop to South Korea in Feb.

North Korea's first official reaction came Wednesday, when the Korean Central News Agency quoted a government official as demanding the two diplomats be extradited and tried for leaking state secrets.

In a separate development, North Korea is withdrawing from a key U.N. human rights treaty in protest at a resolution, backed by the United States and other countries, accusing Pyongyang of serious rights violations, its deputy U.N. ambassador said here Wednesday.

Han Chang On told a briefing that the resolution passed against North Korea last week could also jeopardise upcoming peace talks with South Korea slated to be held in New York.

North Korea sent a letter Monday to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan stating that the country would pull out from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Mr. Han said.

Thai flood toll rises to 24

BANGKOK (R) — Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh Wednesday toured flood-hit southern Thailand, where the death toll stood at 24, and ordered the urgent dispatch of food and medicine to victims.

Mr. Chavalit, Deputy Prime Minister Sukavit Rangsiaphol and Interior Minister Sonth Thienthong arrived in Chumpon, the province hardest hit by several days of heavy tropical rains, early Wednesday.

The premier ordered officials in Chumpon to send food and medical supplies to flood victims immediately, especially to people living in remote villages.

"The sky is quite clear this morning but it won't be for too long. Medicine must be sent to people affected by floods, and officials must try to help solve their problems which might arise in the immediate future," Mr. Chavalit said.

Mr. Sonth told reporters in Chumpon that the government had decided to initially set aside 800 million baht (\$23.53 million) to help the victims.

Twelve people drowned in Chumpon and 12 others were killed in five other provinces over the past few days, an Interior Ministry spokeswoman told Reuters Wednesday.

At least six other people were injured in the flooding that hit southern Thailand after several days of heavy rains that submerged many towns and cut off several roads and rail lines, the

spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman said total damages had not been estimated, but the damage in Chumpon alone were probably about 1.7 billion baht.

The Public Health Ministry in Bangkok Wednesday sent 100,000 doses of medicine for diarrhoea and foot diseases to Chumpon, a ministry official told Reuters.

It earlier sent 50,000 doses of a similar medicine and a large amount of antivenom serum to the province, the official said.

"The serum is meant to help victims of Malayan snakes. There are a lot of this kind of snakes in Chumpon and nearby areas," the official said.

The flooding had cut sections of highways and railway lines in Chumpon and Surat Thani in the mid-south, and halted train and truck service between the region and Bangkok earlier in the week.

A rubber trader said that emergency measures taken by the government had allowed some trucks to get through by road to Chumpon.

Local television footage showed the water in some areas starting to recede.

Some areas in the afflicted provinces were also without electricity and telephone services.

U.S. seeks drug-intercept permission from neighbours

SAN JOSE (R) — The United States wants to send military planes and warships to Central America and the Caribbean to help local police forces intercept drug shipments, Costa Rica's security minister said Tuesday.

The far-reaching plan aims to expand upon intelligence-sharing agreements the U.S. already has with many countries in the region, Security Minister Laura Chinchilla told Reuters in an interview.

Washington has asked countries in the region to allow U.S. warships and planes to use their territorial waters and airspace to track down other vessels and aircraft suspected of carrying drugs.

The crews would include U.S. military personnel with qualified observers from countries who grant permission to pursue suspected drug traffickers into local airspace or territorial waters,

Mr. Chinchilla said.

In the interview, Mr. Chinchilla showed Reuters documents outlining the U.S. offer and other steps the U.S. is proposing.

The large scope of the proposal likely would have serious diplomatic and political implications in small countries long way of the colossus to the north.

"Even though in the particular case of Costa Rica we are in agreement in principle

with the U.S. offer, we have sent the matter to the attorney general's office so that it can offer an opinion," Mr. Chinchilla said.

An agreement to allow foreign troops to operate within their national territory would violate the constitution of some of the countries involved. Therefore United States would need permission from the local legislature of some countries in the region.

But the benefits to the U.S. anti-drug effort are obvious cutting off the escape routes for drug traffickers who can avoid U.S. interdiction efforts by seeking refuge in the national waters or airspace of a third country.

Most countries in Central America and the Caribbean lack sophisticated air and sea defence systems that can be used to hone in on drug traffickers.

IRA has shown 'genuineness' over ceasefire — Mowlam

LONDON (R) — Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam said Wednesday the Irish Republican Army (IRA) had shown some "genuineness" in their current ceasefire.

But Ms. Mowlam said she was not yet ready to decide whether the guerrilla group's political wing Sinn Fein should be allowed into talks on the province's future.

"It is a positive picture as it was put to me by some folk in the security services yesterday," she told BBC Television.

Ms. Mowlam said she would have to consult Prime Minister Tony Blair before deciding whether Sinn Fein should be admitted to the

multi-party talks which resume on Sept. 15.

"By word and deed, they (the IRA) have shown a certain degree of genuineness, I have no doubt about that," Ms. Mowlam said.

"But I still want to make the judgement in the round. I want to talk to the prime minister, and I haven't made as yet a final judgement," she added.

The IRA resumed their ceasefire in July after the government dropped a British insistence that the guerrillas start disposing of their weapons before being admitted to talks.

The British and Irish governments Tuesday announced agreement on an

independent international commission on (arms) decommissioning which would operate alongside the talks.

The move met with a mixed reaction from protestant political parties who want Britain to retain sovereignty over the province.

David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party which has half the province's 18 MPs, said the Dublin-London deal was inadequate. "The agreement itself has very little substance in it," he said.

But David Ervine, leader of the Progressive Unionist Party which has links with Protestant guerrillas, described the agreement as a

"historic document."

"The question is 'have they done enough to get rid of the illegal weapons', and the answer is that they can't do much more given that it is a voluntary process," he said.

Britain and Ireland announced Tuesday the forming of a new body intended to rid Northern Ireland of guerrilla arms and help secure a permanent peace after decades of bloodshed.

Ministers said the "independent international commission on decommissioning" would operate alongside full-scale talks due to start on Sept. 15 and would have offices in Belfast and Dublin.

Ms. Mowlam and Irish

Foreign Affairs Minister Ray Burke signed an agreement on the commission during 90 minutes of talks in Belfast.

Despite ceasefires, pro-Irish IRA and pro-British loyalist militias are refusing to hand in the weapons they have used in a 28-year war over the future of rule by Britain.

But Britain and Ireland hope that the establishment of a commission to supervise a handover of armaments will be a spur for multi-party talks that have been paralysed by rows over the illegal weaponry for more than a year.

The ministers said they were honouring a commit-

ment by their governments and they appealed to reluctant Protestant parties to bury suspicions about the September talks and take their seats in them.

"It (the peace process) needs a leap of faith on all sides. We are giving it the best push that we can. Now we need some support from all parties around the table," Mr. Burke told reporters.

"The signing of this agreement paves the way for the commission to be ready to commence work on a fully operational basis alongside the start of substantive negotiations on Sept. 15," said Ms. Mowlam.

"To achieve this goal, the two governments are also

taking a range of other steps including joint approaches to the U.S., Canadian and French governments to help identify members of the commission," she added.

Furious Protestant politicians, speaking for the province's pro-British majority, accuse London and Dublin of bending over backwards to appease the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and spirit its political arm Sinn Fein into the September talks.

Many Protestant politicians regard an IRA cessation of violence, declared on July 20, as only a short-term tactic and are angry that Sinn Fein is poised to come to the table before any arms are surrendered.



The town of Cork Hill sits at the foot of the ash spewing Montserrat Volcano seen from Fleming Hill in Salem. Officials with the Montserrat Observatory say that the volcano is going through a period of nonexplosive dome growth (Reuter photo)

Montserrat chief says full evacuation 'reasonable'

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (R) — Montserrat's chief minister said Tuesday Britain might push for a total evacuation of the Caribbean island because the society had been totally destroyed by volcanic eruptions.

David Brandt said it was a "reasonable conclusion" that London might seek a complete evacuation as a way to end the crisis caused by the Soufriere Hills Volcano, but called on the British government to support development of the island's unscarred northern end.

"The business sector has been destroyed, there is not sufficient housing, the school system cannot operate because people are being sheltered in the schools, and it is a total destruction of the society," Mr. Brandt told a news conference.

The volcano burst to life in July 1995 and has devastated the southern half of the island. Fiery eruptions in June destroyed seven villages and killed 19 people, and hot rock flows in early August destroyed much of the capital, Plymouth.

Mr. Brandt, in Antigua for an emergency meeting with Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders on how to tackle Montserrat's devastation, blasted Britain over its handling of the crisis and demanded it release funds to develop the north, the only area scientists consider safe.

"It is wrong to give the international community the impression that we have given you £41 million (\$65 million) and at the same time secretly stopping the spending of those funds," Mr. Brandt said.

Montserrat authorities said Britain had frozen the funding while waiting to see how many islanders accept its offer of evacuation assistance.

Britain and its colony have traded angry barbs in the past few days over handling of the disaster, with Montserratians saying London was doing too little and a British minister accusing its leaders of flouting "irresponsible fantasy figures" for relocation compensation.

Adults who want to settle on other Caribbean islands have been offered about \$4,000 and children \$1,000.

Montserrat has lost more than half its population in the past two years and on Saturday Britain's Royal Navy began an official evacuation, but local officials said fewer than 100 of the 4,000-5,000 people remaining had left, with most awaiting the outcome of the battle over relocation aid.

Mr. Brandt lamented that Montserrat's centuries-old society — Columbus named the island in 1493 — might vanish.

"How are you going to put a financial measure on the disappearance of a whole country?"

London Tuesday announced that George Foulkes, under secretary of state for international development, would visit

Montserrat this weekend to ease tensions with the territory.

Mr. Brandt, who became chief minister Friday following the sudden resignation of Bertrand Osborne, met Tuesday with Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, Grenada Prime Minister Keith Mitchell, St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Denzil Douglas and Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Lester Bird.

Mr. Patterson told reporters the CARICOM economic alliance was backing Montserrat's call for Britain to provide more support.

"We hope that the support of the British government will be more tangible, more immediately evident and more quick than has been the case so far," he said.

Antigua, 43 kilometres northeast of Montserrat, has given refuge to about 3,000 people displaced by the volcano, but says it cannot afford to shelter fleeing Montserratians.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said Wednesday he had launched a review into how Britain treats its dependent territories in the wake of the dispute with the volcano-ravaged Montserrat.

"I will be making a major policy speech on the dependent territories next February. A priority for the foreign office between now and then will be to ensure we come up with a consistent policy," Mr. Cook told reporters during a flight to South East Asia.

Britain is mired in a row over the level of aid it is offering to the people of Montserrat, one of the 12 small so-called dependent territories which are all that remains of a once mighty empire.

"We will go through the dozen territories and ensure there is a custom-made solution for each of them. We have to ensure there is no suspicion of any neglect," Mr. Cook said in comments clearly aimed at the unhappy inhabitants of Montserrat, many of whom say Britain has forsaken them.

Islanders have said Britain's offer of aid to those wishing to leave Montserrat is derisory, prompting British International Development Secretary Clare Short to denounce them as greedy and unrealistic.

"There has obviously been a failure of communication over the last few weeks, but not a failure of policy," said Mr. Cook, whose ministry has ultimate responsibility for Montserrat.

On Monday, the British government announced the creation of an action group to coordinate aid to the islanders — a move widely seen as sidelining short after her headline comments.

Mr. Cook said Britain could only now turn its mind to reviewing policy towards the dependent territories because it had previously been concentrating all its efforts on the July 1 handover of Hong Kong to China.

Philippine leader says no to second term

MANILA (AFP) — Fidel Ramos Wednesday renewed his pledge to step down from the Philippine presidency in 1998, amid growing protest led by his predecessor Corason Aquino against moves to amend the constitution.

"I do not seek a second term for myself," Mr. Ramos told a regional conference of

Asia-Pacific justices here.

Ms. Aquino, who had backed Mr. Ramos in the 1992 election, announced Tuesday that she and Roman Catholic archbishop, Cardinal Jaime Sin would lead a rally next month against proposed moves for charter changes.

Mr. Ramos reiterated,

however that he supported Filipinos' right to change the constitution and for lawmakers to call for a constituent assembly since this was "enshrined in the same constitution."

"I nonetheless recognise and respect the people's right to petition for constitutional change. No earthly

power can ever take that away from them," he said.

"It is likewise the right of the representatives of our people who have been elected to congress to decide what is best for our future by way of enlightened laws and even amendments to our constitution," Mr. Ramos added.

Diana hits out at press and Conservatives

PARIS (R) — Princess Diana hit out at the British press and the former Conservative government in a rare interview published in France Wednesday, and said she would have left Britain long ago but for her sons.

"The press is ferocious. It pardons nothing. It only hunts for mistakes. Every motive is twisted, every gesture criticised," Princess Diana said in the interview with the French daily Le Monde.

"Overseas, it's different. I am welcomed with kindness, I am accepted for what I am," she said, according to the French translation of her comments.

"In Great Britain it's the opposite. And I think that in my place, any sane person would have left long ago. But I cannot. I have my sons."

In a party political comment, very rare for a member of the royal family and sure to stir up controversy, Princess Diana hailed the new Labour government's decision to push for a ban on anti-personnel landmines

and attacked its Conservative predecessor.

She said the position of the Labour Party had always been clear on the subject.

"It will do a great job. Its predecessor was so hopeless. I hope we will manage to convince the United States to sign a treaty to ban landmines in December in Ottawa."

In the interview, headlined "the princess with a big heart," Princess Diana added: "Over the course of the years, I have had to learn to ignore criticism. But the irony is that it has been useful to me in giving me a strength I didn't know I possessed."

The 36-year-old princess has been in the public eye lately mainly due to a high-profile romance with Dodi Al Fayed, Egyptian heir to Harrods Department Store in London.

Newspapers around the world have splashed pictures of the couple nuzzling up to one another during a string of recent holidays.

The latest batch of photos, published Monday, showed

the pair caressing each other while Mr. Fayed's yacht was moored at the Italian resort of Portofino.

Princess Diana, divorced from heir-to-the throne Prince Charles a year ago this week, has previously gone to great lengths to keep her men friends out of the public eye but appears to have cast caution aside in the case of Mr. Fayed, 42.

The interview with Le Monde journalist Annick Cojean in London steered clear of her love life, focusing on Princess Diana's humanitarian efforts such as her campaign against anti-personnel mines and frequent visits to hospitals and poor people in developing nations.

Princess Diana said that she had felt her freedom become constrained when she joined the royal family. "From the day I entered that family, nothing could be done naturally," she said.

"I feel close to people, whoever they may be. Right off, we are at the same level, on the same wavelength," Princess Diana said.

"This is why I irritate certain circles — because I am much closer to the people at the bottom than to the people at the top, and the latter do not forgive me. Because I have a genuine feeling of closeness with the humblest."

"My father always taught me to treat everyone as an equal, and I am certain that (sons) Harry and William follow this example," she said.

Princess Diana said that being constantly in the public eye placed a heavy responsibility on her, which she did not take lightly.

"If I had to define my role, I would use the word 'messenger'," she said, explaining that she used her public appearances "to transmit a message, sensitise the world to an important cause, defend certain values."

"Nothing makes me happier than to try to help society's most vulnerable," she said. "That is a goal and a crucial part of my life, a sort of destiny. Whenever someone in distress calls, I will hasten there, wherever that may be."

Taleban forces claim gains north of Afghan capital

KABUL (AFP) — In only four hours of fighting north of the Afghan capital, the Taleban militia have claimed the capture of key ground from their northern-based opponents, a frontline commander told AFP Wednesday.

Frontline chief Haji Abdul Malik said a number of villages in the Koh-e-Safi district — 50 kilometres north-east of Kabul — had been recaptured in the first Taleban advances in more than a month.

"We captured Ahmad Zahi, Jal-e-Qala, Scandera and Saparay villages of Koh-e-Safi in the offensive," Mr. Malik said.

No independent confirmation of the claims was immediately available.

The dusty district which guards a key northern entrance to Kabul fell into the hands of the anti-Taleban

after fierce fighting one week ago.

Mr. Malik said 25 troops loyal to ousted government strongman Ahmad Shah Masood were killed and a further 30 were taken prisoner.

"We suffered no casualties as we managed to outflank them," Mr. Malik explained, adding the usual militia assertion that opposition "forces of evil and corruption" have no morale.

Mr. Malik also promised more Taleban action on the frontlines that zig-zags north of the Afghan capital and at the closest point are within a mere 25 kilometres from the city centre.

"Every inch and every rock of the country is vital for us to take and bring Shariat (Islamic law)," Mr. Malik said.

Meanwhile, Afghan sources in Pakistan said Masood

loyalists Wednesday opened a new front in eastern Afghanistan against the Taleban, launching attacks at four places.

The opposition troops led by Commander Hazrat Ali attacked Taleban positions in eastern Nangarhar and Kunar provinces, the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported.

The offensive was launched in Khewa, 30 kilometres north of the Nangarhar provincial capital Jalalabad, AIP said.

The fighting which spread to other areas was now raging in Nangar, Sarkani and Chowkal districts of Kunar province.

At least six people were killed on both sides including a senior Taleban official whose jeep was hit by an artillery shell, the private information service said.

Taleban authorities have

rushed 400 militiamen to reinforce their strength in the battle zone, AIP quoted Taleban officials as saying.

The Taleban militia which captured the eastern provinces last year before seizing Kabul in September, have been challenged previously also in the area by commanders loyal to the ousted government of former president Burhanuddin Rabbani.

The latest attacks coincide with pressure by Masood forces on the Afghan capital.

The opposition thrust on Kabul suffered a setback last week when their shadow prime minister Abdul Rahim Ghafoor died in a plane crash at central Bamian province.

The anti-Taleban alliance is currently engaged in negotiations to find a replacement, Afghan sources said.

Swiss sterilised mental patients — historian

GENEVA (R) — Swiss doctors sterilised mentally handicapped patients against their will under a law passed in 1928, a copy of which was requested by Adolf Hitler, a Swiss historian said.

Hans Ulrich Jost, a professor of history at the University of Lausanne, told Swiss Television Tuesday night that many people — nine out of 10 of them women — were affected by the campaign, in the canton of Vaud.

"Even Hitler requested a copy of the law from the canton and from the government in Bern as a basis for Nazi Germany's own racist laws," Mr. Jost said.

"It is hard to say how many sterilisations were carried out based on the law but the number must have been high," he added.

The historian said the campaign resembled racial cleansing "sciences" practised in Sweden and Norway after World War I.

Sweden have been shocked by recent revelations that Social Democratic Swedish governments sterilised 60,000 women to rid society of "inferior" racial types and to encourage Aryan features.

Mr. Jost said French-speaking Vaud, in western Switzerland, was the only canton with such a law but said he believed similar forced sterilisations were carried out in other parts of the Alpine country.

One young woman, two months pregnant, was recommended for sterilisation because she was "feeble-minded, morally weak, idiotic and promiscuous," according to one document shown on television.

It was issued by the Zurich University Polyclinic and dated 1944.

Swiss media reacted with shock.

"Sterilising people to force them to be sterile because they are annoying to others and to create a pure race is an inadmissible practice," French-language daily Tribune de Geneve said on its front page.

The newspaper said the practice was started in Vaud by Swiss psychiatrist Auguste Forel, who arrived in the canton from Zurich and convinced officials there of the need for a "racial hygiene" campaign.

The sterilisation law was passed in Vaud in 1928, Swiss Television said. Media Wednesday quoted Vaud officials as saying the practice was stopped more than 20 years ago.

Mr. Jost said Germany asked for a copy of the Vaud law in 1934 as a basis for its own racist legislation.

NASA satellite spins out of control

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — A recently launched NASA Earth-observing spacecraft is spinning out of control and may be lost altogether, the U.S. space agency said.

The Earth-orbiting Lewis spacecraft, which blasted off last Friday from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, was found to be spinning twice a minute when ground controllers contacted it early Tuesday.

"Preliminary indications are that excessive thruster firing had occurred on one side of the spacecraft, causing it to spin when it should be stable," the space agency said in a statement.

"That has disrupted the spacecraft's power-generating capability, raising the potential of the loss of the

mission."

The spinning motion was preventing the satellite's solar panels from pointing at the sun, causing its batteries to drain. Four later attempts to contact the spacecraft were unsuccessful.

The 385-kilogramme satellite was built for NASA by TRW and was to have operated for a minimum of three years. The \$65 million mission was hailed by NASA as a champion of its recently adopted "faster, cheaper, better" philosophy.

NASA said the Earth-observing satellite had commercial applications for pollutant monitoring, analysis of endangered species habitats, and estimation of forest and agricultural productivity.

The Lewis spacecraft was in a circular parking orbit and space agency officials said they had at least three weeks to try to resolve the problem.

"NASA and TRW are working hard to assess and better understand the situation, in order to establish a recovery plan and try to resume the mission," Samuel Venneri, chief Technologist at NASA headquarters said in the statement.

There were also on board automatic systems that might be able to correct the problem and recharge the batteries, he added.

Lewis is part of NASA's mission to planet Earth, a long-term multi-billion dollar Earth-observing programme.

Hun Sen loyalists rain mortars on last Cambodian royalist bastion

CHANGE CHOM (AFP) —

Troops loyal to Cambodian strongman Hun Sen Wednesday began raining mortars and shells on the last royalist outpost here after the besieged forces launched a guerrilla war against their rivals.

The attack, the first by the stronger Phnom Penh troops here in three days, came after a long overnight lull in fighting for the town of O'Smach, which lies opposite this Thai border hamlet.

Heavy weapons rounds fired by Second Premier Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party troops rained down on the ramshackle wooden buildings that line O'Smach's only street, gutting the market and scores of buildings and leaving most of the trading town ablaze.

Plumes of black smoke rose up from the burning houses and shops in the hill-top town, still desperately defended by the troops of ousted First Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Four soldiers loyal to the prince were seriously wounded and taken across the border into Thailand, the Thai military said.

"There is a lot of fighting but we are not sure what is happening or whether any side is attempting to move on the other," a Thai military officer at the fenced border here said.

The besieged forces of the prince responded to the latest barrage weakly, only sending off a mortar or cannon volley occasionally amid continuous fire from their better armed and

equipped enemies.

The latest outbreak of fighting here came as the Thai military said the royalists had changed their military tactics from the conventional to guerrilla in a bid to retain some military influence in Cambodia.

"(Prince Ranariddh's) FUNCINPEC soldiers have begun using guerrilla tactics to fight Hun Sen's men in this area," Major General Churasak Chirassak Prommopakorn said.

"We think that Ranariddh's troops have begun a new military strategy to reduce the efficiency of the opposing forces of Hun Sen," another senior officer who requested anonymity told AFP.

"Last night there was fire coming from the Hun Sen-held town of Samrong and we believe it was the result of a guerrilla attack on Hun Sen," the officer added.

Samrong is located about 40 kilometres south of O'Smach.

The Thai officers said this was the first time the troops of the prince, who was ousted by Mr. Hun Sen after a weekend of street fighting in Phnom Penh last month, had changed their strategy of attack.

The comments came despite a call Tuesday by Prince Ranariddh for a ceasefire and peace talks with Hun Sen's government.

He said the gesture would be a "welcoming present" to mark the return of the prince's father, King Norodom Sihanouk, to his country Friday. But while the

Phnom Penh government agreed to the call, it insisted that the royalist forces first lay down their arms, a condition angrily rejected by ousted Prince Ranariddh.

In rebuffing Hun Sen's conditions for a ceasefire, the prince said that to accept them would amount to "surrender" and would leave them open to assassination.

King Sihanouk, who has been receiving medical attention in Beijing since February, is to fly directly to the northern Cambodian town of Siem Reap, site of the Angkor temple complex, Friday.

In a separate development, the head of the Khmer Journalists Association (KJA) said Wednesday that press freedom is in danger in Cambodia as many independent journalists have gone into exile or are afraid to speak out following last month's coup by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Pin Samkhon, self-exiled president of the KJA, said opposition voices virtually had been silenced since Hun Sen ousted first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh on July 6.

I think all opposition and independent editors are outside the country, said Mr. Samkhon, editor of the now-suspended Phnom Penh newspaper The Independent.

He told a seminar organised by the U.S.-based Freedom Forum in Hong Kong that journalists had not yet been thrown in jail, but all who stayed were afraid to criticise the Hun Sen government.

Residents flee fighting in Brazzaville

KINSHASA (AFP) — Fearful residents of southern Brazzaville have fled to nearby villages after Congolese government forces stepped up attacks against supporters of former military strongman Denis Sassou Nguesso, state radio said Wednesday.

Monday's raids were the first airborne attack by forces loyal to President Pascal Lissouba since hostilities broke out on June 5 after the head of state sought to disarm his opponent's Cobra militia ahead of now postponed elections.

Fighting in Brazzaville had previously involved heavy arms fire from multiple rocket launchers and mortars, as well as automatic weapons and smaller guns.

Bacongo and Makele-Kele, two districts in the south of the capital controlled by Bernard Kolelas, the Brazzaville mayor and mediator in the conflict, have so far been spared serious violence, witnesses said.

Jordan Times

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Jordan Times advertising department.Refugees need
to be rescued

IN WHAT is definitely a negative measure that will make more difficult the lives of Palestinian refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), has decided to reduce services it offers to refugees. The decision is the result of severe budget constraints that the agency says make the maintenance of the current level of services not possible.

Jordan has rightly rejected UNRWA's decision, warning of the alarming consequences the reduction of services offered to the refugees will result in. UNRWA should be enabled to reverse its decision. The international community and especially the traditional donor countries have a moral and political responsibility towards the agency and the people it serves. This is a responsibility that must be shouldered.

UNRWA was established by the United Nations to exclusively deal with the Palestine refugees problem. Its mandate must continue until this problem is resolved in accordance with international law that upholds the refugees' right to compensation and/or return. The notion that developed in the wake of the Madrid peace conference that UNRWA must be eventually phased out has devastating consequences for the refugees and the countries in which they live. The international community cannot expect the host countries to shoulder the burden of providing for refugees alone.

Jordan, the largest host and donor country to Palestinian refugees, has repeatedly stressed the importance of meeting the humanitarian rights of refugees. Its policy has been predicated on meeting the humanitarian needs and improving the living conditions of refugees not as an alternative to the fulfillment of their political rights and aspirations but as a necessary prerequisite for realising these rights and keeping the issue alive. In all international forums, the country has urged donor nations to continue their financial support for refugees. A few months ago in Amman, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan warned at a meeting of UNRWA's major donors of the danger inherent in ignoring the issue of refugees which is increasingly becoming politically incorrect. Prince Hassan called on donor nations to maintain their financial support for UNRWA. This is a call that must be heeded. The Palestinian refugees are living under extremely difficult conditions that should not be made more nightmarish. Jordan, whose annual spending of about \$350 million on refugees is equal to UNRWA's annual budget and other host countries, simply do not have the financial means to meet all the needs of refugees.

As the search for a political solution to the refugees problem continues, humanitarian assistance to them must not be halted. Donor countries should not deduct assistance they give to the Palestinian National Authority from their contributions to UNRWA. The West Bank and Gaza are only two of five areas of operation in which UNRWA operates. Refugees living in these areas of operation are entitled to a dignified life and to the vital services that UNRWA offers.

The international community must move fast to rescue UNRWA and the people it serves. Abandoning UNRWA at this very sensitive point in the effort to bring about peace and stability to the Middle East will help no one, neither the refugees and nor the cause of peace itself.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm criticised Jordan for responding to Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu's desire and announcing that it will refrain from selling Iran any materials needed for its nuclear reactor. Saleh Qallab said that China will be the losing party in trade if it favours Israel, with its five million inhabitants, over Iran's 60 million. Iran represents a vast market for China's products, unlike Israel, which is an industrial state with little need for China's products, the writer pointed out. He said under the founders of modern China, Beijing never wavered in providing support for the Arab causes and the causes of nations struggling against colonial powers and seeking freedom, noted the writer. He said it is clear that Israel is a colonial power which maintains its occupation of Arab lands and it is most surprising to see China siding by Israel and responding to its call not to provide Iran with the material needed for its nuclear reactor although Tehran has been reiterating its intention to use the reactor for peaceful purposes. China, said the writer, seems to have taken an unprecedented step, when it opted for political interests rather than stick to its ideological and economic interests, when it favoured Israel.

View from Academia

Tawjihi and the many traumas in its aftermath

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

THE AFTERMATH of the tawjihi is a trauma for most parents and their children who pass the exam successfully in our society, in addition to the trauma, of course, which precedes and accompanies it. The aftermath is a time of decisions — ones which cause, for the many, a great deal of anxiety, stress, pain and, often, torture and misery: what university to choose and what speciality? The speciality of university you (as a parent) want or the one your son/daughter wants? The one your son/daughter really wants to attend (in case of the university) or choose (in case of the speciality), or the one their grades in the tawjihi entitle them to attend or choose?

And there is the trauma of those parents whose children fail to obtain the grades which enable them to attend national universities. Not those whose children get below 65 per cent and are not — in accordance with national admission regulations — allowed to file an application for admission at the national universities but those whose children obtain grades above 65 (usually between 65 and 75) and who have no chance of being admitted, for the competition is tough.

These parents and children have probably a rougher and tougher time than the rest. Unless these children come through one of the categories which the national admission policy makes an exception to (i.e. that of the remote governorates, of the children of army personnel or teachers, etc., who may be admitted with a grade of 65, 69 or 72), they have no chance of being admitted to national universities. The choice they have is either to attend private universities or seek admission abroad (of course, many of them never think of joining community colleges, even though some of them do).

What makes their trauma tougher is that for a while, many of them think that if they pull the right strings, they may get admission to national universities — an assumption which though false they believe in their heart of hearts to be true. You attempt to convince a parent who approaches you to help his son/daughter get admitted (i.e. those whose grades are in the range of 65-75) that unless their sons/daughters are entitled to be on one of the lists of the exceptional categories referred to above, there is no way they will be accepted. Our national universities observe the rules and regulations of admission faithfully and meticulously. But such parents never believe you. Drawing on their experience with other institutions and other applications, they think

if they push harder in the direction of finding the right string, they may be able to pull it through; a false hope and a misconception which causes them and those they bombard with visits and phone calls a great deal of pain and embarrassment.

And there is the trauma of those parents whose children obtain high grades in the school certificate (say 97 per cent) but get a low grade in the tawjihi (say 70 per cent), and they are puzzled by what happened.

As long as the tawjihi is with us (and one does not see a better alternative in the near future) such traumas will be with us for some time.

'Will Jordan be the Singapore of the Middle East?'

By Izzat R. Dajani

COMPARATIVE STUDIES usually offer best assessments due to the fact that set criteria and performance indicators are being benchmarked and referenced. And through comparing, for example, it could be found out whether Jordan and Singapore are alike or different.

Both countries fall under the criteria and definition of emerging markets. It was only in 1986 that the International Finance Corporation (IFC) started to exert efforts to promote capital market development in the less developed countries which have low and middle per capita income.

Jordan and Singapore could be said to have similar physical structures or modes of governance; they certainly share similar structural and political input. They each have a relatively small population base of about 4 million people. The inhabitants tend to be multi-ethnic in nature, with Chinese, Malay and Indians forming the bulk mix in Singapore and Jordan having Armenians, Bosnians, Chechens and Circassians among the Jordanian/Palestinian majority. Both countries seem to cherish happy co-existence and accept different religions as practised by the differing ethnic groups. Politically, Jordan and Singapore have each been governed by strong and progressive leaderships with clear vision, wisdom and determined focus.

Both countries endured long hardships after obtaining their respective independence, but managed to maintain recognisable levels of domestic stability in an otherwise volatile region.

It is in the economic performance where Singapore and Jordan do not have matching results, with markedly different

economic output. Whilst Jordan's gross national product (GNP) per capita is about \$1,200, it is dwarfed by Singapore's staggering figure, in excess of \$11,000.

Jordan's market capitalisation, as registered in 1992, was \$3.40 billion, as compared to Singapore's \$49.00 billion. Whilst market capitalisation was spread across different stocks in Singapore, it was concentrated in the ten largest stocks, which themselves held 49 per cent share of the total market capitalisation, according to the 1992 official data. This is due to the tendency of many companies in Jordan to be held by families or by the government, with the number of shares available for trading or purchase limited. The number of listed companies on the stock exchange in Jordan, for the same period, was 103, as compared to Singapore's 213.

There have been many factors positively influencing economic developments in both Jordan and Singapore. Trends towards lower death rates and longer life spans have had a dramatic impact on education and experience levels, with marked influence on economic abilities and aspirations. There has also been the powerful impact of technology, with the ensuing results of better communication and much improved productivity.

Whilst data is not available for Jordan, the number of telephones in 1991 was highest in Singapore amongst all other emerging markets, with the exception of Hong Kong which had the same figure, 500 telephones per 1,000 people. In Jordan, the rise in living standards created a critical demand for telephone services, with people often having to wait more than two years for tele-

phones to be installed and with exorbitant fees.

Singapore has excelled in implementing a modern economic philosophy in which market economic systems are most successful in stimulating economic growth. Its gross domestic product (GDP) for 1995 was \$121 billion, growing at eight per cent annually.

Without further delving into the Jordanian factors, as they are known to most analysts and economic/political observers in the Middle East, I will try to highlight the significant criteria that influenced Singapore's miraculous economic development.

Lee Kuan Yew presided over the government from 1959 till he stepped down in 1990, after which he remained as a senior minister. He ironically said that since 1959, Singapore has had only "one" government during which time young men were brought into the government, given responsibilities and encouraged to gain experience. Core members of the Singapore government today have experience that averages over 15 years. They are instrumental in maintaining, if not developing, economic and administrative performances.

Lee Kuan Yew attributed this progress to two basic factors: — A government which was clean, free from corruption, capable and serious and whose accumulated experience resulted in improved judgement.

— A people who were united and worked together with employers and the government to overcome the difficulties the country faced, and backed tough government policies in order to overcome those difficulties.

Singapore took advantage to the most of its geographic location, built up its infrastructure, upgraded its manpower and

trained its people to meet the needs of international trade, industry and services. To compete and survive with no natural resources, Singaporeans became better trained, better educated, better organised and equipped with better infrastructure. They made sure they remained better at doing things than their neighbours whilst using the same machines and similar infrastructure.

Singapore always opted and streamlined its policies and approach to remain among the top most successful three countries in the Asia Pacific region. It took strong measures to make sure its tiger economy endures.

The government of Singapore has invested heavily in education, training and scholarships, benefiting people greatly. These people have been told that they have a special obligation and duty towards society. It was the better educated who were given the opportunity to move the country forward with great commitment to society. This was especially relevant for those in charge of government, professions or business. They were driven to place the interests of society above their own, ensuring the well-being of the society as a whole.

There was no room for anyone profiting from his/her public appointment. Clean and corruption-free government is Singapore's most precious political and economic asset. For this reason it was recognised that ministers who deal with millions, if not billions, of dollars should not be paid low salaries since low salaries are not attractive to able men who can be successful in their professions or business while they tend to draw hypocrites who sweat talk their way into power in the name of public service. It

was also becoming increasingly impractical to depend solely on the spirit of serving the nation to get good and able people to serve in government. Singapore believed that high performance in any organisation, but in government in particular, depends on top-class leaders.

Top professionals are in short supply. Their skills are in demand by many firms around the world, with high pay prospects. Conversely, at the bottom end, the market is flooded. It was men and women from the top professional group that Singapore needed in government and took steps to draw into its ranks.

Thus, Singapore came up with a brilliant formula to encourage good and able men and women to join the public service without sacrificing their financial livelihood under a corrupt-free environment. Ministers' salaries, together with those of judges and civil servants, became pegged to the salaries in the private sector instead of being fixed. Under this system, these people are paid two-thirds of the salaries of the private sector top executives, according to income tax returns, with a two-year time lag. This was even accepted by the citizenry at large as a viable

means for ensuring the best join the government and for maintaining an equitable, corruption-free governance environment. It is also true that pegging the salary scales to the market means that when the market turns down during a recession, the salaries of executives in the private sector go down and so do the ministers'. This totally eradicated in Asia the concept that becoming a minister is big business.

Lee Kuan Yew believed Singapore is not an ordinary country and thus ordinary men will not be able to run it. The old guard, like Mr. Lee himself, spent years selecting, training, testing and preparing the key leaders in Singapore's present government for the job. This new breed has the ability to adapt the system to meet changing conditions.

Jordan possesses every criteria for success, yet the results to date have not been as encouraging. The question that tempts one is: Will Jordan ever be the Singapore of the Middle East? Only time can answer this.

The writer is currently the managing director of Guiding Principles, a strategic consultancy company. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Love and sympathy

To the Editor:

THIS LETTER is on behalf of more than 300 inhabitants of Ostead who are all good friends of the Royal Jordanian Falcons and who wish to extend their sympathy to the team and Jordanian people for the loss of one of their friends.

Now that the first impact of the shock is over after this terrible tragedy, we would like to put the following into words: First and foremost, we would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the wife, the family, the team and the many friends of Omar Bilal. This is a great loss for all of you, but also for everyone in Ostead who had the pleasure of being Omar's friend. He was an appealing fellow who was much loved and appreciated. We will miss our valuable friend dearly.

We also wish to thank Her Majesty Queen Noor and Princess Inan for their much esteemed visit to Ostead. It was regarded as the highest token of respect for the victims and their families.

Tragedies, it seems, bring real friends even closer together.

Indeed, for many of us, the Falcons have always been the favourite team. Not only because of their skill but also due to the style and flair with which they sought contact with the people of Ostead. Real class! The dignity with which the team represented their country during the remembrance service on the day following the accident demonstrated real courage and respect.

This is how we have always known the Royal Jordanian Falcons. A group of charismatic and friendly gentlemen, loyal to their King and always ready to do the utmost in promoting their country. In the most charming way possible they persuaded us to get to know more about Jordan and its people. First impressions are important and in a very short time they managed to rid us of all the prejudices which so many Western people are known to have. They taught us the true character of the Arab people on the whole and in particular that of the Jordanians: a tolerant people, extremely kind and hospitable. Thanks to the RJF many of us had the honour and the good fortune to visit Jordan which is something we will continue to do in the future.

Dear Jordanians, the purpose of this letter is to show you that friends in Ostead appreciate and support the RJF team more than ever. An unfortunate tragedy is not going to change this. The demise of Omar should be the beginning of a more solid bond between the inhabitants of Jordan and Ostead. What was started by the RJF must be built upon. For our part, Jordan will be promoted further in the same manner that the RJF always did. The foundation in Ostead of the "friend's circle El Ostead" is meant as a greeting of honour to our great friends.

Dear RJF, we sincerely hope we can welcome you in Ostead next summer. We miss you dearly and wish all Jordanians a wonderful future.

You are always welcome.

Jan Vergaerde,
Leopold II laan 11,
B-3400 Oostende,
Belgium.

Israeli demands to Arafat need to be realistic

By Carmi Gillon

TEL AVIV — As an Israeli intelligence officer, I used to keep photographs in my office of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials who were the enemies of my people. Later, when I ran Israel's internal security service, the Shin Bet, I worked closely with those same Palestinians to thwart our common enemy: Islamic fundamentalist terrorists.

After the Oslo accords that Israel and the Palestinians signed in 1993, Israeli security officers initially found it difficult to turn over sensitive information about terrorist plots or arms caches to our long-time foes. And the Palestinians had a hard time arresting and interrogating their neighbours because it made them appear to be collaborators.

But both sides swallowed their distaste because cooperating was the only answer to terror. Eventually we even ran joint operations — including one that led to an arrest for the bus bombings in Jerusalem in early 1996.

Now the mistrust is so deep that an American intelligence agent is needed to funnel information between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Israeli officials about the latest suicide bombing in a Jerusalem market last month.

In this atmosphere, relying solely on humiliating and bullying Yasser Arafat is not the way to get him to crack down

on terrorists and restore cooperation with Israeli intelligence. Some pressure on Mr. Arafat is necessary. But it does not serve Israel's interests to make him seem like a weak capitulator to Israeli demands or to create so much popular Palestinian resentment that it strengthens the hand of Hamas.

That is why it is counterproductive to withhold tax revenues from the PNA, for example. That money pays the salaries of the Palestinian security officers whom the Israelis need to track down and stop terrorists.

When Israeli and Palestinian

as a bargaining chip with the current Israeli government. He must be shown that this is unacceptable. So it made sense for the U.S. envoy, Dennis Ross, to focus mainly during his recent visit to the region on pressing Mr. Arafat to take strong action against terrorism.

Peace talks should not be restarted before Mr. Arafat makes a solid effort to arrest terrorists and destroy the network that supports them. Yet the demands made of him must be realistic.

I wish he could confiscate all illegal weapons, clamp down on all anti-Israeli rhetoric and meet other demands of hard-

"In this atmosphere, relying solely on humiliating and bullying Yasser Arafat is not the way to get him to crack down on terrorists and restore cooperation with Israeli intelligence. Some pressure on Mr. Arafat is necessary. But it does not serve Israel's interests to make him seem like a weak capitulator to Israeli demands or to create so much popular Palestinian resentment that it strengthens the hand of Hamas."

intelligence first started working together after the Oslo accords, the Palestinians had motivation but lacked ability. Now they have ability but lack motivation.

Mr. Arafat has played a dangerous, inexcusable game by using this security cooperation

liners in Israel. But he would not be able to do this and retain any credibility with his people.

Moreover, an effective security dialogue cannot happen without political dialogue. If there is to be a crackdown on Palestinian terrorists, Mr. Arafat must be able to demon-

strate that some benefits will accrue to those who are not in the camp of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The only benefits he can offer are economic progress and a peace process that is not continuously side-tracked.

Before the Oslo accords, when Israel relied heavily on an often unreliable network of Palestinian informers, we could not do much to uproot the Hamas terrorist infrastructure. Suicidal young men with access to sophisticated weaponry are extremely difficult to stop. Mr. Arafat can do a better job against them, if only because, as Yitzhak Rabin used to say, he doesn't have a Supreme Court or many civil libertarians to worry about.

Just after some of the worst terrorist outrages in 1996, when Israel responded by refusing to let in Palestinian workers, I sat together with Palestinian intelligence officers to plan strategies to find the perpetrators and prevent further attacks. That work required mutual trust. It will be virtually impossible to do such work again if the political impasse continues.

That is yet another reason why it is imperative for the United States to step in as quickly as possible to get peace talks back on track.

The writer was director of Israel's secret service from 1994 to 1996. This article is reprinted from The New York Times.

reviewing

VENRO: A young American student, now a member of Interior...

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Society on the Move

Reviewing, reevaluating and re-routing spell change

The mandate of the new Securities Commission is a hefty one. Hand-picked by the Council of Ministers to carry out the mission are five commissioners chaired by Michel Mairto, who leaves his position as deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, for the new full-time task. Dr. Mairto obtained his Masters and Ph.D. degrees in economics from the University of Southern California in 1970. He served as chairman of the board of the Industrial Development Bank and the Jordan Mortgage Refinance Company. He has been deputy governor of the CBJ since 1989. Dr. Mairto has represented Jordan on bilateral and multilateral committees within the framework of the Arab-Israeli peace talks. He was also Jordan's debt negotiator for the London Club (1989-93) and the Paris Club (1989-97) as well as the bilateral negotiations of creditor countries of the Paris Club. As a member of the negotiating team with the International Monetary Fund, Dr. Mairto has played a critical role in helping Jordan achieve monetary stability and economic reform. Along with him on the team of commissioners are: Deputy Chairman Hisham Tel, a former minister of justice and of state for prime ministry affairs; Dr. Taysseer Abdel Jaber, former minister of labour and former under secretary general at the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and most recently director of the Arab Consulting Centre; Dr. Maher Waked, assistant general manager of the Bank of Jordan; and Abdul Hamid Hiyari, director general of the General Supplies Department where he was in charge of the Central Tenders Committee. This commission is designed to provide the enabling environment to achieve sound dealings in securities through the regulation, development and monitoring of securities and capital markets in Kingdom. It is responsible for protecting securities holders, investors and the public from fraud and deception. The commission, thus is charged with regulating and monitoring the issuance of and dealings in securities as well as the entities that fall under its supervision. It will also be responsible for regulating the disclosure of information concerning securities, issuers, insider trading, major holders and investors. With the swearing in of the commissioners, the Amman Financial Market, as we know it, will no longer exist, and therefore AFM General Manager Wahib Shair will step down. Having been party to the finalising of the 1997 Securities Law, which created the commission, the bourse and the depositary, Mr. Shair, who has headed the AFM for nearly the last 11 months (since the former general manager Ummayya Taukan left to become ambassador to Brussels) says he will take his time in evaluating his future options. Previously, he ran his own auditing firm. As for the more than 100 employees of the AFM, they are expected to be employed by the new Securities Commission.

invitation of Minister of Tourism Akel Biltaji, the young career diplomat wasted little time in touching base with nearly all the powers that be in his former base. Mr. Aristegui was deputy head of mission of the Spanish embassy in Amman from 1993-1996 when he was appointed to his new position in the first Council of Ministers of the new Spanish government of José Maria Aznar. He was in Jordan to discuss tourism security, cooperation in the general field of security, looking beyond traditional methods of fighting crime, and to keep in touch with Jordanian politicians as a key player in the region.

KEEPING THE LINK: Deciding on a major career move herself is Dorri Alopaus-Stahl. The area manager of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is returning to the Swedish foreign service. After two years with UNICEF in Amman, Mrs. Alopaus-Stahl will keep links with the U.N. by becoming the permanent representative of Sweden to the Rome-based United Nations organization. Her office will be in the Swedish embassy and she will be in charge of dealing with the Rome-headquartered agencies of the U.N., i.e. the Food and Agriculture Organisation, World Food Programme and International Fund for Agricultural Development. Prior to her UNICEF appointment Mrs. Alopaus-Stahl was counsellor for multilateral affairs at the Swedish embassy in Nairobi and was deputy permanent representative of Sweden to the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) and HABITAT. Her husband, Michael, a political scientist, has been in Sweden heading a small college in development research studies. His research liberties will allow him to commute monthly to Rome. Mrs. Alopaus-Stahl, meanwhile, awaits the arrival in Jordan of the UNICEF Executive Secretary Carol Bellamy. After the visit in early October, she will leave for Italy.

DRAW DOWNS: On the subject of changes at UNICEF, the restructuring programme of the United Nations, U.N. sources have told us, may very well lead to about 950 positions of the agency's 7,000 posts worldwide being cut. But U.N. officials are telling their staff the programme calls for replacing the scotched posts with approximately 500 new positions. What that boils down to is more responsibilities and duties for those who continue in the U.N. system. Here in Jordan, it is expected that nine UNICEF positions will be cut and replaced by four new posts.

RE-ROUTING: Royal Jordanian, itself, is undergoing major self-evaluations and restructuring. In that vein the airline reports several principal staff changes. At the top is the resignation of Vice President of Finance Ghassan Ali. This 27-year veteran of the national airline has been offered an attractive job which will take him to Riyadh to work for Saudi Arabia's Prince Khaled Bin Sultan. Details of the position were not revealed. The decision to merge RJ's two affiliate airlines, the new Royal Wings regional carrier with the older charter service of Arab Wings, required only one general manager. The man selected was Royal Wings General Manager Ahd Qutair, which thus brought former Arab Wings Manager Ramzi Shwayhat to the Commercial Department. Another resignation at RJ Head Office was that of Assistant Vice President of Information Technology Mohammed Abdul Satar. With about 15 years of RJ service behind him, Mr. Satar has various opportunities ahead. Two executives to return from North America are Area Manager Chicago Michel Boulous and Regional Director Canada Ihsan Naghway. Mr. Boulous, who was honoured by Illinois Governor Jim Edgar for his efforts to bring RJ recognition in the Midwest as well as his endeavours to promote Arab culture in that region, has been assigned to the Finance Department, and Mr. Naghway is assigned to the Head Office. RJ operations in Canada — Montreal and Toronto — proved to be unprofitable and are expected to be halted soon.

TRY-OUT: A former UNICEF staff member, Tiwa Hazou, is heading down under with his wife Virginia and youngest son Rami. Since late last year when he left his UNICEF post, then titled chief of external relations, Mr. Hazou has been free-lance consulting for various agencies in Amman. The Hazous are going to Auckland where Mr. Hazou will explore prospects of setting up a consultancy for business

and political expertise on the Middle East. Virginia, who will be back in her native land, will probably return to nursing. The couple's two older sons Taymoor and Rand are completing university studies in Australia. Mr. Hazou says the move is an experiment, and among his other ideas he is looking into opening an Arabic coffee shop, replete with argileh and perhaps some artefacts. Market research studies indicate the concept has promise. The Toumas plan to leave Jordan at the end of September. Meanwhile, the post left vacant by Mr. Hazou at UNICEF remains so. The title has changed to chief of the communications section, but for the past 10 months principals have not found any of the short-listed applicants sufficiently qualified to take on the demanding position.

TAKING THE STAND: In his first high-profile appearance since taking the reins as director general of the Jordan Estates Corporation, Amer Majali last week addressed a meeting of Arab pharmaceutical industry representatives. Naturally he highlighted the role of the Sahab Industrial City, which he said provides full facilities to some of Jordan's drug-manufacturing firms. He noted that there are 22 industries engaged in the manufacture of medicines (including veterinary and hygienic products) at Jordan's industrial estates. He said the total investment of these firms alone is JD 50 million. Mr. Majali, who was in the private contracting sector before accepting his new post, stressed that these firms are characterised by high quality and apply international standards to their products, thus enabling them to compete in the international market.

MAKING THE GRADE: At the Royal Court, Director of Information and Public Relations Ali Faza'a has been promoted. A Royal Decree issued last week raises his official rank from special grade to higher grade. Mr. Faza'a has been at the Royal Court for five years, four of them in his present post. He obtained his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Arabic literature and in modern literary criticism from the University of Jordan. Prior to joining the Royal Court he was first a writer and producer of news programmes at Jordan Radio then was put in charge of the station's cultural programmes. He has published four books of poetry and one on literary criticism. He is the recipient of the State Award for Literature.

TESTING THE WATERS: Ramadan Rawashdeh is one ambitious journalist. As a reporter with Al Rai' he writes on various political issues. As a novelist, his book, *Al Hamrawi*, won him the 1994 Najib Majawz Prize for Best Writer in the Arab World. Now he is exploring with family, friends and other supporters his chances at a shot for a seat in parliament for the Shobak, Ma'an, Wadi Mousa district. That district has 3 Muslim seats. Mr. Rawashdeh, who is 34, married and has a son and daughter, will decide over the next few weeks whether he will join the campaign wagon or stick to words on paper.

IT WAS A FARE MATTER: Airfare competitiveness brought El Al, the Israeli airlines, its largest ever tour group of Jordanian passengers this month. The group of 100 flew to Paris on El Al from Amman via Tel Aviv. Sources tell us that some travellers are finding the low fares offered by El Al outweigh other inconveniences such as the arduous security checks.

CHURCH BELLS: Exchanging wedding vows on Saturday will be Mouna Jumean and Stephen Brannon. Ms. Jumean, the daughter of Heyam and the late Col. Emile Jumean, and a graduate of Kansas State University, has been financial and administrative officer of the Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East for the past three years. Mr. Brannon, the son of Marshall and Ann Brannon of the U.S. state of Virginia, graduated with a Masters in Arab studies from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He has been working for the International Press Office of the Royal Court for three years. The couple plan to spend another year in Jordan and then chart their way to the U.S. in search of new horizons.

Jennifer Hamarneh



Praise the government before it's too late!

WITH SENTIMENTS of pride, I hail the great achievement of our prime minister, Abdul Salam Majali, which would make the most sceptical of citizens an instant government admirer. Amidst a series of happenings (things that suddenly happen to people, including the Press and Publications Law and other temporary and permanent damage building measures, Majali suddenly broke the jinx by putting his foot down and deciding that Jordan will flip an hour back to winter time on the 19th of next month. Even though this is not a flip forward, in this case I decided not to have a thing to complain about.

On the contrary, if it wasn't for the socially regulated and controlled manhood in charge of my glands, I would have almost had a tear run down a cheek. I am very sentimental about this, not only because I feel that this is the greatest decision made by our prime minister, but because of the fact that I've had it with summer and if it wasn't for Majali's power over the seasons, we might have been stuck in sunning mode forever!

Yes, I've had it with all of those men and women, whose skin is dark enough by birth, getting even darker and the slap happy attitude that comes alongside vegetating in the sun only because it is a classy practice that ought to be done in good mood. What's wrong with gloomy days past and ahead? I've had it with people driving convertibles and me trying to figure out the point. If an airhead is struck by the sun in summer only to get dizzier and gets showered with cold rain in the winter but never wakes up to smell the cake, when does the top come off?

I've had it with having to drink your choice of Pepsi or Coke just because you shouldn't get caught drinking hot tea. I've had it with getting hot and sweaty even without the presence of a female or without having been struck by a Stealth virus that turns your system runny. Most importantly, I've had it with the same sun looking down at you and saying: "Hey, I am the same sun that rises daily in the Bahamas, Caribbean and Hawaii. How come everyone is all covered up from head to toe?!!" It is about time for winter, and thank to none other but Majali!

To tell you the truth, my state of mind has nothing to do with the seasons, neither am I really looking forward to winter. It is the feeling that as seasons come and go, all we've become experts at is government bashing. Not that governments don't deserve it, but the fact is that once a new government comes, all stop bashing the old and start at the new, under a general feeling of great loss!

In other words, if you take how we bashed the heck out of Kabarti's government yet we are suffocated by nostalgia today, you may see the fear of the upcoming season of unknowns on our tanned faces! If we are going to cry over this government after we try out the next, shouldn't we have praised this government at least once during its lifetime?!! If not for credibility, why not for the heck of it?!

Planning ahead of time, I hereby praise the current government for the above and below:

- 1- This government's ability to deny. Cabinet members have shown a great ability to deny anything at anytime, and if challenged, they would deny their own positions!
- 2- This government's ability to declare. Cabinet members have been able to declare that they will fix this and that without having to say how.
- 3- This government's ability to ignore. Check out how many frustrated people are on Nets, or in the opposition.
- 4- This government's ability to flirt. Under the pretext of fixing relations with the brotherly or the cousinly, our government has been known to hold closed-door meetings with governments of the opposite sex — no incest intended.
- 5- This government's ability to track. Wherever the government walks, you see its footsteps for decades to come, even when its no longer around. Graffiti such as "Ensour was here," or "Tarawneh rules" can be seen on walls of various institutions beside ones that say "Obaidat is on top," "Thumbs up to Taber Masi" and "Bank on Kabarti."
- 6- This government's ability to fool: Also homous, baba ghanooj and falafel.

Keep this list, you may need to praise the next government pretty soon!

Striking a balance in women's studies

Arab Women: Between Defiance and Restraint
Edited by Suha Sabbagh
New York, Olive Branch Press — Interlink Publishing Group, 1996, 267 pages, \$18.95

ARAB WOMEN: Between Defiance and Restraint is both a contribution to women's studies and a critique of Western stereotypes which portray Arab women solely as victims of Arab men's backwardness. As Suha Sabbagh writes in the introduction, "This analysis suffers from the naivety of perceiving another culture through the prism of Western consciousness." It focuses only on "hot spots," such as the harem, honour killings, female circumcision and veiling. Ultimately, this is linked to the power struggle between the West and the Arab World: Arab women are used "as a stick with which to beat the Arab World... (which is) dehumanising first and foremost to the women of the Arab World. Such an attitude cannot be mistaken for feminism... it is a degradation of this term."

Most of the 32 articles in the book are written by Arab female academics, residing in the U.S. or Arab countries. They set out to reverse prevalent stereotypes by examining women's conditions in the context of an objective appraisal of Arab society, in order to reveal their hidden strengths, and the problems that truly concern them: Education, work, personal rights, etc. In order to accomplish this, the authors must strike a delicate balance as indicated by the title: Between Defiance and Restraint. They must present the objective socioeconomic and cultural reasons for the customs and structures which constrain women, without becoming apologists for the denial of women's rights.

Sabbagh achieves this balance when explaining why few Arab women openly challenge the extended family despite the restrictions this patriarchal social unit imposes on them: "Worn down and ill-equipped to deal with women's growing needs, the extended family nevertheless remains the best insurance system around."

However, Sabbagh goes too far in her quest to refute Western stereotypes when she writes: "There are no statistics about how many honour killings occur in the Arab World because they are an aberration, occurring far less often than random murders in (the U.S.)." Of course, almost anything is an aberration when compared with U.S. crime rates, but it is foolish to say this is the reason no statistics are kept on honour killings. Besides, such statistics do exist. Jordan is a case in point. Rana Hussein's investigative reporting for the Jordan Times, based on police records, shows that over the last decade honour crimes ranked highest among all murders committed in the Kingdom. Thus, they are not an aberration in the Jordanian crime scale, and the police are concerned about them. Sabbagh would have done better to tackle this topic head-on and explain its social causes. Data is available, as seen in the 1996 statement of the Director of Jordan's Homicide Department, Mujib Fakhour, that 85 per cent of crimes against women are committed by men who are unemployed.

Among the articles which most successfully balance between revealing women's oppression and strength are three by Bouthaina Sha'ban. In "The Status of Women in Syria," she reviews the effects of advances made in education and jobs on a broad range of women, from the "superwoman" who manages her profession and her home, to the battered wife. In "Arab Women and Literature," she shares her finding that the first Arab novel was written not by Hussayn Haykal (Zinab, 1914), but by a Lebanese woman, Afifa Karam, whose *Badia Wa Fouad* (1906) was published by Al Huda newspaper in New York. In "The Hidden History of Arab Feminism," she reminds us that "the Arab Women's League, with its clear pan-Arab vision, was formed in 1928, 17 years before the League of Arab States." Moreover, articles published in Cairo, Beirut and Damascus prior to 1915 "established an interesting link between the emergence of political movements for national independence and the awakening of a feminist consciousness in the Arab World, arguing that no country can be truly free so long as its women remain shackled (an important

connection that Arab women in the next generation failed to stress)." The relationship between nationalism and feminism is also raised in the section on Palestine, where Suha Sabbagh and Eileen Kutab comment on the Declaration of Principles of Palestinian Women's Rights, which was adopted by a number of women's groups in the West Bank in conjunction with the PLO Women's Union in Tunis. The text of the document is included in the appendix of the book.

One of the most interesting essays is by Hala Maksoud. Based on the Lebanese experience, she challenges the theory that "all wars have hastened the emancipation of women, either because of women's active participation in combat or because women were propelled into the workforce to replace men." On the contrary, she contends that "as a result of the breakdown of the social order, people cling to family and tradition." Destruction of infrastructure increased women's chores. "Women, instead of being free to construct new roles, were in fact consumed with old traditional roles and domestic duties... even if some Lebanese women felt empowered as a result of their personal participation in the war, this has not translated into gains for women, because they were not organised as women around an agenda." All in all, they were sidetracked from work to develop their communities — "a precondition for improving the status of women."

The book also includes three contributions on Jordan by Alba Amawi: An interview with Leila Shanaf, a brief article on women's education and an analysis of women's rights to vote and inherit property in Islam.

Containing articles on Egypt, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Kuwait and Morocco as well, the book has a fairly broad scope. While only a few articles give in depth analysis, almost all are highly informative. The book enables us to take stock not only of women's situation, but also of the potentials and the weaknesses of Arab women's studies.

By Sally Bland

Are there hackers in Jordan?

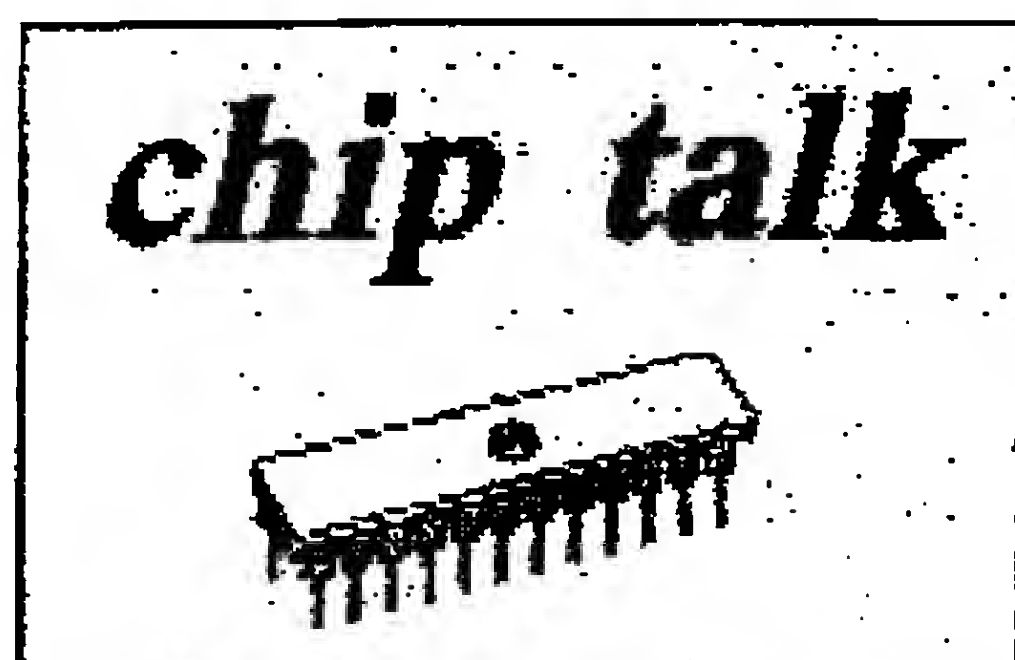
By Jean-Claude Elias

COMPUTER CRIMES got the attention of the media for the first time in the mid-eighties. There were curious stories of American teenagers tampering with the Pentagon's main frame and accessing top secret information. In other example, young hackers succeeded to beat bank's super-computers security systems and became rich by transferring to their own account, once every month, "only" a few cents from all other accounts in the bank. That is before being discovered and tried.

The exotic part of these events was due partly to their novelty and partly to the fact that there were then no clearly defined laws to sanction such unusual crimes. Things have changed since, at least in the United States and in Western Europe. Laws have been updated and the felony has lost its glitter. Statistics from the computer world however show that the rate of such crimes has neither risen nor fallen, though there is now more "variety" in the type of infractions committed.

As far as Jordan is concerned, the country so far has been virtually free of computer crime. Two factors certainly contribute to maintain a healthy situation, though the second of them may be changing. The first is a general climate of low crime rate. In spite of the reports that the media channel and that indicate that the said rate is increasing, Jordan remains a very safe place overall. Much safer than most other countries in the world. The second factor is a little more complex and deserves some explanation.

Accessing another computer to obtain protected information from it, to make unauthorised bank transfers or to plant viruses in its system cannot be done through magic, not even black magic! It requires the second computer (the victim) to be linked to the first (the attacker) either in a local network configuration or via modem to another, more global network, like the Internet, typically. Any PC not connected to another machine is absolutely safe.



Until 1996, most personal computers operated in Jordan were in a stand-alone (that is not connected to any type of network) configuration. And yet, people who were misinformed were afraid of attacks by other computers. With the widespread usage of electronic mail and the Internet, things are changing fast. Users of PCs are discovering the advantage to be connected. Indeed, several suppliers of computer hardware in Amman have confirmed that they are currently selling four times more modems than PCs. A clear indication that those who already had purchased a machine without modem are adding one to their system, in order to access other networks — again, mainly the Internet.

The question therefore is: "Will the almost systematic link to the Internet increase the rate of computer crimes in Jordan?" Nothing so far allows us to think so. The few thousands Internet users in the Kingdom have not reported any incidents. Even in case such problems do occur, this would not necessarily mean that they originated from the country.

It could be that the number of PCs in Jordan that are connected one way or another to networks is still very low and that no significant conclusion can be drawn at this stage. It could also be that the Kingdom is heaven-protected from computer crime. At the rate the number of subscribers to the Internet is growing, we will soon know.

Some things we need to know about

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Number one:

According to tests conducted to measure the protection cars give to occupants and pedestrians in the event of front and side-impact crashes, some of the cars we drive do not protect us from serious injury in road accidents as much as they are supposed to.

These same tests have shown that even some of the more expensive car brands did not offer greater protection from injury.

For example, when one brand of car was rammed from the side, the driver's door struck the placed dummy's chest before the side airbag had fully inflated.

Even though motor manufacturers and traders are arguing with consumer associations about these tests, we, the consumers, have the right to be informed of the truth about the safety aspects of the car we drive.

Number two:

Of the new ideas that are being thought of to beat the menace of drunk-driving, devices that disable cars if the driver is over the alcohol limit are being considered in the fight against drinking and driving.

Number three:

July 1, 1997 was the longest day of the year: Whereas every other day simply has 24 hours, it had a total of 24



hours and 1 second.

Due to the Earth's slowing rotation, this extra second was added so that satellite systems and high-speed data links would not find themselves out of step, depending on their time zone.

While the need for this extra leap second might not have been obvious with older timepieces, modern atomic caesium clocks are so accurate — to less than one second in 300,000 years — that they can detect the varying rotational speed of our planet, caused by the interaction of tidal friction from the gravitational pull of the sun and moon, and the fluid composition of the Earth's core.

Number four:

This was the 21st leap second introduced since 1972.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

BRUSH YOUR MEMORY

BELOW are forty different plants. Study them for three minutes and try to memorise as many as you can.

SCORE:

| | |
|-------|-----------|
| 20-25 | Fare |
| 26-30 | Good |
| 31-36 | Very Good |
| 37-40 | Excellent |

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Cabbage | 2. Radish | 3. Parsnip |
| 4. Cauliflower | 5. Carrot | 6. Leek |
| 7. Peas | 8. Brussel sprouts | 9. Asparagus |
| 10. Broad beans | 11. Sweet corn | 12. Beet |
| 13. Tomato | 14. Celery | 15. Aubergine |
| 16. Onion | 17. Lettuce | 18. Pepper |
| 19. Runner beans | 20. Turnip | 21. Swede |
| 22. Potato | 23. Globe artichoke | |
| 24. Purple sprouting broccoli | 25. Lentil | |
| 26. Chicory | 27. Marrow | 28. Cassava |
| 29. Parsley | 30. Courgette | 31. Jew's mallow |
| 32. Cucumber | 33. Spinach | 34. Mint |
| 35. Water-cress | 36. Okra | 37. Garlic |
| 38. Pumpkin | 39. Oat | 40. Hemlock |

PUZZLES

(A) UNDERLINE THE ODD-ONE-OUT:

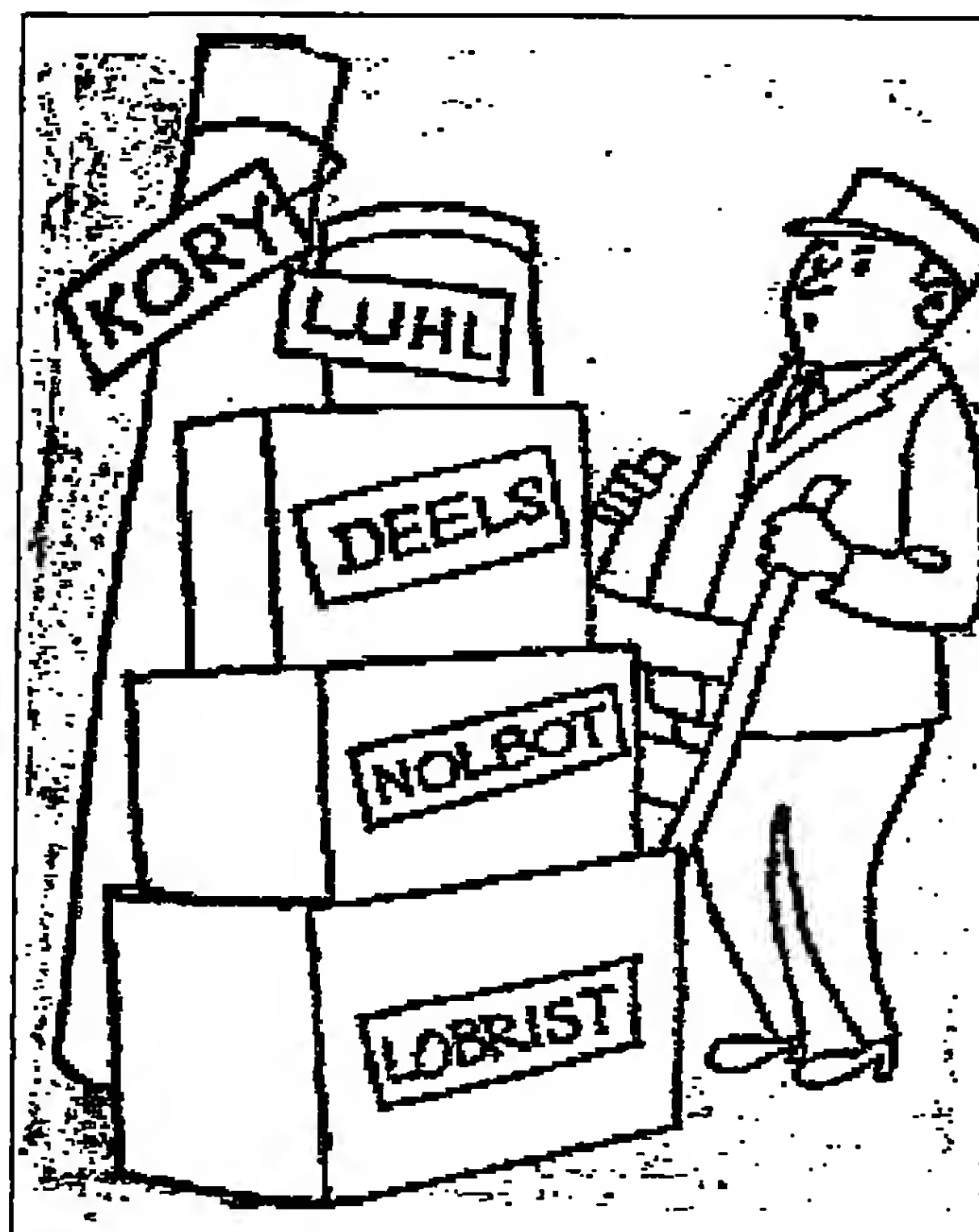
ANT SPIDER BEE MOTH MIDGE

(B) INSERT A WORD WHICH MEANS THE SAME AS THE TWO WORDS OUTSIDE THE BRACKETS

disc (.....) achievement

(B) HELP THE PORTER

CAN you unscramble the names to tell the porter where the parcels should go?



THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however, measured or far away.
— Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

I suppose it can be truthfully said that hope is the only universal liar who never loses his reputation for veracity.
— Robert G. Ingersoll, American lawyer, politician (1833-1899)

If you can talk brilliantly about a problem, it can create the consoling illusion that it has been mastered.
— Stanley Kubrick, American movie director (1928-)

Know the true value of time — snatch, seize and enjoy every moment of it
— Lord Chesterfield, English statesman (1694-1773)

JOKES

• SHE: "In so many a party, people mistake my daughter as me."
HE: "Is your daughter fifty years old?"

• "This is A pretty dress. It must have cost you a lot."
"No, only five-minute crying."

• "Salma gets a man's salary now."
"Does she work at government offices?"
"No, she's got married!!"

• "What do you think of Fatma's fiancé?"
"I don't know anything about him now, but his conduct was good when I was engaged to him."

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

** I hold him to be a fool.
Innani a'taqid annahn ghabiyy.

** Hold your tongue!
Oskoti

** He's in a hole.
Innahu fee ma'ziq.

** You've passed with honours.
Laqad najahta betafawwoq.

** Hold up your head, brother!
Irfa' ra'saka ya akhi.

** This is the eleventh hour for you.
Innaha akhir fursah laka.

** I'm not in a hurry.
Lastu fee ajalaten min amri.

** It's a stroke of luck.
Innaha darbatu huzz.

** Congratulations!
Tahaneenal

HAPPY DREAMS

• BURGLAR. A dream of contrary. Burglars in your dream predict an increase in worldly goods, and if you caught them, it will probably be by way of an inheritance.

• DARKNESS. Be prepared for a setback; however, if you managed to grope your way to the light, you will achieve great success. If you were walking in the dark, you will recover something you had given up for lost.

• DOORBELL. A symbol of pleasant excitement. If you pushed it, you will soon have an interesting new friend; if you heard it ringing, you can expect to have an opportunity to engage in a happy new activity.

• GIRAFFE. This long-necked creature in your dream is warning you not to meddle in other people's affairs.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, August 28, 1997

| | |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 2:00 | The Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Cartoons |
| 3:00 | America's Funniest People |
| 3:30 | He Shoots He Scores |
| 4:00 | French Programmes |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:15 | French Programme |
| 7:30 | News headlines |
| 7:35 | Trivial Pursuit |
| 8:00 | Cinema Cinema Cinema |
| 8:30 | Lois And Clark — Superman |
| 9:10 | Kung Fu — The Legend Continues |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | Movie |
| 12:00 | Step By Step |

| | |
|-------|------------------------|
| 7:35 | Fresh Prince Of Belair |
| 8:00 | Cinema, Cinema, Cinema |
| 8:30 | National Geographic |
| 9:10 | Renegade |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | One West Waikiki |
| 11:15 | Sisters |

Monday, September 1, 1997

| | |
|-------|-------------------------|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Cartoon |
| 3:00 | Gillette Sports Special |
| 3:30 | Deep Water Haven |
| 4:00 | Animal Show |
| 4:30 | Ocean Girl |
| 5:15 | French Programmes |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:15 | French Programme |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Neighbours |
| 8:00 | Murphy Brown |
| 8:30 | Babylon 5 |
| 9:10 | Highlander |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:35 | Emergency Room (E.R.) |
| 11:15 | Homicide |

Tuesday, September 2, 1997

| | |
|-------|-------------------|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:05 | Cartoons |
| 3:00 | French Programmes |
| 4:00 | Family Matters |
| 4:30 | NBA |
| 6:10 | French Film |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:15 | French Programme |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Neighbours |
| 8:00 | The Health Show |
| 8:30 | Hawkeye |
| 9:10 | Drama Series |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | Mini Series |
| 12:00 | Movie |

| | |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:05 | Square One TV |
| 3:00 | Dog House |
| 3:35 | French Programmes |
| 4:00 | Album Show |
| 6:10 | French Programmes |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Coach |
| 8:00 | Tilt 23.5 |
| 8:30 | Encounter |
| 9:10 | Nature Of Things (Documentary) |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | West Beach |
| 11:15 | Miniseries |

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Twinkle |
| 2:30 | Wishbone |
| 3:00 | Blue Heelers |
| 3:30 | World Of Geo |
| 4:30 | The Valley Between |
| 4:30 | Tilt |
| 5:00 | French Programme |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Neighbours |
| 8:00 | Ties That Bind |
| 8:30 | Prism |
| 9:10 | Time Trax |
| 10:00 | News At Ten |
| 10:30 | Movie |
| 12:00 | Ellen |

Sunday, August 31, 1997

| | |
|------|---------------------|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Cartoon |
| 3:00 | Energy Express |
| 4:00 | American Chart Show |
| 6:00 | French Programmes |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Cartoons |
| 3:00 | Global Gardner |
| 3:30 | Spell Binder |
| 4:00 | Monsters Today |
| 4:30 | Border Town |
| 5:00 | French Programmes |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Neighbours |
| 8:00 | Soldier's Diary |
| 8:30 | Oprah Winfrey Show |
| 9:10 | Spenser For Hire |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | Land's End |
| 11:15 | American Gothic |

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allone

Teen mo

Symbolic'

By Liz Clark

The... and confer...
... the Prince of W...
... the regeneration of Ne...
... 4.5 million Belfast W...
... building in a vast developmen...
... the heart of the...
... development has af...
... million worth of investme...
... including BT North...
... the Belfast Waterfront Ha...
... unique design encompass...
... up to 2,250 people on...
... simultaneous interpretation...
... the art sound and light...
... protection. Broadcasting an...
... ball can accommodate up...

Stallone softens action-hero image, talks of past mistakes

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, California — It wasn't the usual Sylvester Stallone interview. He seemed subdued, even somber, and more self-revealing than usual.

Yet the apparent reason for his mood wasn't disclosed until four days later: Stallone's wife, model Jennifer Flavin, whom he married in London on May 17, had just suffered a miscarriage. The couple has a year-old daughter, Sophia Rose, who underwent successful surgery for a hole in her heart last November.

Though more serious than usual, Stallone spoke in an upbeat way about his life at

midcentury (he turned 51 on July 6).

"I have a woman that I'm fully in love with, a daughter that I'm obsessed with; I feel healthy. I like the fact that I had the opportunity to work with world-class actors. ... I'm a very, very lucky guy."

He was referring to his new film, *Cop Land*, in which he appears with Robert De Niro, Harvey Keitel and Ray Liotta.

Although Stallone has been a top star since *Rocky* in 1976, the path has been anything but smooth. His first two marriages ended in divorce, and he has often been a target of the tabloids.

"There were a lot of mistakes, a lot of abuses, a lot of vanity and egocentric behav-

iour that somehow spoil the good times, spoil your reputation, spoil your responsibility," he said.

"Whether you like it or not, you have a responsibility, once you reach a certain level, to conduct yourself as a positive force. When you're depicted as a man who's thought of in one way, and you live a life of reckless abandon and utter excess in every area, what's the message?"

"Once you get to the top, abuse it, take advantage and have no responsibility and live for the moment and to hell with the future — that part I wouldn't enjoy."

"Anyway, it's a lesson well learned. I'm not happy to say I lived through it. But I'm happy I survived it."

Stallone attributed his adult troubles to his early life. He grew up in New York's toughest Hell's Kitchen, spending much of the time in foster homes since his parents could barely support themselves. They divorced when the boy was 11.

Mrs. Stallone moved on to Silver Springs, Maryland, then to the low-rent area of Philadelphia, and Sylvester was often farmed out to other families. He later claimed to have been expelled from 14 schools in 11 years. He spent two years at the American College in Switzerland and two at the University of Miami, where he studied acting.

"I came from a rather tumultuous background," he said. "I had a fantastic mother who was never given the opportunity she wanted; she had to take care of the house."

"I never really developed any foundation where I knew how to conduct myself. Now I have learned the importance of stability. That was a long lesson. A long lesson."

Stallone talked enthusiastically about *Cop Land*. "It's the most gratifying thing, regardless of how it turns

out, to go back to the school of ensemble acting that I hadn't seen since *The Lords of Flatbush* (his first important role, 1974). Everyone was part of the whole. And to be surrounded by all these actors that basically I started out with."

The other three principals — De Niro, Keitel, Liotta — came from the Martin Scorsese school of acting. Action-star Stallone had never before appeared with any of them.

"It made me nervous — as well as made me listen more," he admitted. "Old dog, new tricks."

Amazingly, *Cop Land* was reportedly made for \$20 million, which is normally what Stallone alone gets for a picture. How so? He and the other stars worked for minimum scale on this one, gambling on pieces of the profits.

"I was attracted by the quality of the writing by James Mangold (who also directed)," said Stallone. "I don't think that I was extraordinary. None of these actors would have done it if they thought they were just being used."

You would expect a star's agent to squawk about such a deal. But Stallone credits his then-agent, Arnold Rifkin of William Morris, for the idea.

"It was a very bold, audacious move for him to go completely against type, against the tides, and against tremendous criticism from various parties with whom I had outstanding deals," said the actor.

What's in it for Sly?

"I've been basically in a holding pattern," he reflected. "The action films have been very good to me, they've provided a lot of entertainment. They also provide a lack of challenge in certain areas."

"Physically they're challenging. But emotionally — they tend to leave that way in the background. Maybe



Actor Sylvester Stallone and his wife Jennifer Flavin greet fans in Florida last month (Reuters photo)

there's not enough room. I think there is, but quite often there isn't."

"It gets to the point where you say, 'if it's still about the money, then you're not really an actor, you're a businessman. When is there enough money to answer the questions or the secrets you have about yourself? Do you really have the sensitivity or the ability or even the ambition that you think you have?'"

"It's one thing to sit there and talk about all the great roles that got away. It's another to take the challenge."

The right time seemed to be indicated by the omens: The birth of his daughter and the miraculous operation; his engagement to Jennifer

Flavin: the 20th anniversary of *Rocky*. He was ready to take "the road less travelled."

Moviemakers will be seeing a different Sly in *Cop Land*. As Freddy Heflin, the sheriff of a New Jersey village where New York cops live with their families and plot crooked and murderous deeds, he is Paunchy, deaf in one ear and disheartened by his humdrum job. He gets pushed around by the rogue cops — until the final battle.

"To give credence to this character, there's no way I could repeat any of the old habits and make it work," said the actor, who gained 18 kilos of flab for the role. "I couldn't still go to the gym and be conscious of what I looked like. Am I

making a physical impression? "I had to get away from the stereotype that I had become accustomed to."

Throughout the years of *Rocky* and *Rambo*, Stallone's fortunes soared, making him the highest-paid star in films. But his last three movies — *Judge Dredd*, *Assassins*, *Daylight* — have failed to earn more than \$35 million apiece domestically.

Yet producers still seem willing to pay his \$20 million fee. The reason: He remains a top draw in the world market.

"Thank heavens," he remarked. "That has been a lifesaver for me — also a source of confusion. ... I think that in America so much has to do with timing, releasing a picture at the

right time and selling it well in advance."

"That's not so important abroad. If the audience likes a person, they'll go to see him because they can't spend that kind of money (on someone they don't know)."

Action fans needn't worry that Stallone is abandoning them. He has several action movies in the works, including maybe another *Rambo* role.

"In any future adventure films, I'm going to try to be diligent and bring more drama into it and still have the action," he said. "David Lean (*Lawrence of Arabia*) did it many times. He had a story that you could almost recall frame by frame 30 years later."

Teen models crowd the catwalks in glamour-hungry Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (AFP) — In her short white dress and waist-hugging jacket, 11-year-old Ada glides down the catwalk at the Radnik Cinema in Sarajevo like the real professional she craves to be one day.

"I have just signed a four-year contract with my agency and I hope to be a top model when I'm a bit older," she told AFP, as her father looked on dotingly.

Ask any girl nowadays in Sarajevo what she hopes to do and the chances are she will say modelling. Fashion and beauty care are fast-

growing sectors in this war-torn city where the people are hungry for glamour and a taste of "la dolce vita" after years of bloodshed and hardship.

Ada who is 1.60 metres in height with wide dark eyes and Slavic features, said she had been recruited by Samosa, the biggest modelling agency in the city.

Four agencies closed during the war, recently reopened and in line with trends in the United States and Western Europe, where 14-year-old "Lolitas" grace the covers of top-notch

fashion magazines, they are increasingly recruiting very young girls.

Parents are only too willing to go along when girls are paid \$30 for one fashion parade in a country where the average monthly wage is only \$50.

The cinema where Ada and a score of other hopefuls waited to take their turns on the catwalk, was given world prominence by the Miss Sarajevo film clip made by the Irish group U2 during the siege of the city. The clip showed the girls holding a banner on which

was written "don't let them kill us."

But though Sarajevo is slightly off the beaten track as far as the fashion circuit is concerned, the selection criteria of Sarajevo modelling agencies are as tough as any at the top U.S. and European agencies.

"We use a selection process in several stages with a jury. What matters above all is their talent and personality," said Mirjana Keac, manager of Samosa and a former model herself.

She said "several European agencies are

interested in six of our youngest models." Most of Samosa's models are less than 15 years old. The "oldest" is 23.

Samosa's office on the first floor of a shrapnel-pocked building in the city centre, was piled with files containing hundreds of amateur photographs which serve as the model's "book."

The future of these young models is tied up closely with that of the fashion and cosmetics industries.

But the largest factories in these sectors, which were

shelled during the war, have not yet returned to full production due to lack of cash.

For this reason, most fashion parades are now held as part of trade fairs or other crowd events and are a far cry from the exclusive shows of the international couture establishment.

As a concession to moralists, the girls' contracts contain clauses obliging them to "get good marks at school" or "be careful whom they befriend" and strictly ban them from consuming drugs, cigarettes or alcohol.

Beauty and fashion are hot news all over Bosnia and the pages of the popular press are full of beauty contests and photos of young girls competing for titles like the country's "loveliest face" or such like.

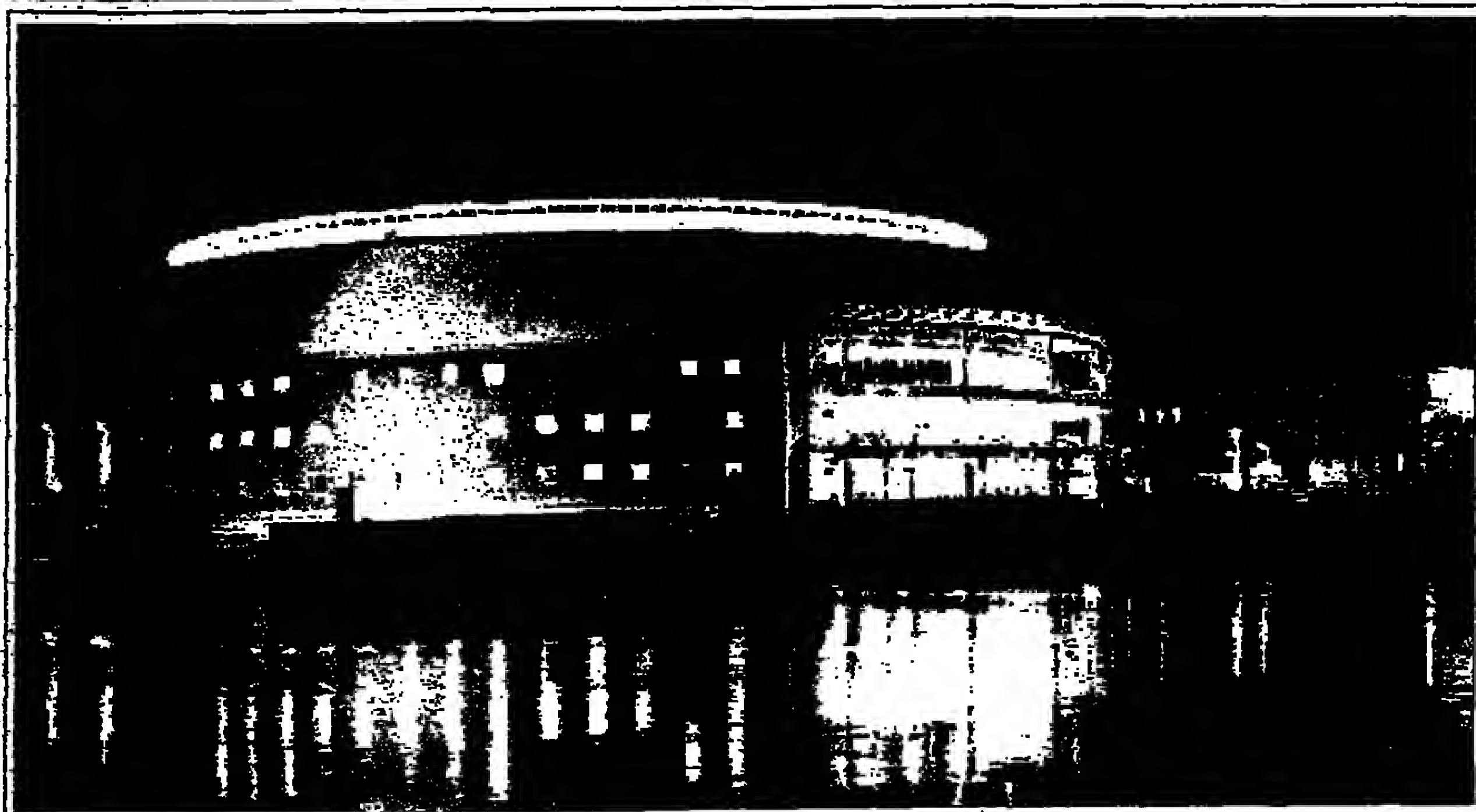
There is not yet any truly Bosnian fashion magazine but newspapers make up for this by using foreign fashion articles.

Selma, 17 her long legs sheathed in vivid yellow trousers, said her dream was to model for the big couture houses. "I hope that one day all my efforts will

be rewarded and I will be able to work in Paris," she said.

Selma recently showed off a collection of underwear in one of the city's red and yellow-painted trams. Her performance drew the wrath of the guardians of Islamic morals in this city where some women have taken to wearing the Iranian-style chador.

"You have to keep on fighting against narrow-mindedness," she complained.



'Symbolic' new Belfast concert hall

By Liz Clark

THIS NEW concert hall and conference centre in Belfast, opened on May 6 by the Prince of Wales, has been hailed as a symbol of the regeneration of Northern Ireland.

The domed £32 million Belfast Waterfront Hall is the flagship building in a vast development project on the edge of the River Lagan, in the heart of the city centre.

The Laganbank development has already attracted more than £80 million worth of investment from private and public sectors, including BT Northern Ireland, and the Hilton Hotel Group, which is to build a 187-bedroom hotel adjacent to the Belfast Waterfront Hall.

The hall's unique design encompasses a main auditorium that will seat up to 2,235 people on three levels. Features include: Simultaneous interpretation facilities, comprehensive state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems, and purpose-built projection, broadcasting and recording rooms.

A smaller hall can accommodate up to 500 people, and

there are 17 rooms for meetings of up to 120 people.

Interest in the hall as a conference and exhibition venue has been shown by companies and associations all over the world.

Built of Portland stone and traditional Belfast brick, and featuring extensive glazing, the Waterfront Hall has been designed to be used for business and leisure, to comfortably accommodate conference delegates and theatre-goers alike.

For example, the ground floor seating is supported on air-cushioned wagons which can be removed or repositioned if required, and the central floor is supported by hydraulic jacks which can raise the floor to various levels, to extend the stage, provide an orchestra pit, or make more exhibition space.

Extensive facilities for people with disability include access to all levels to the main foyer areas, cafeteria, bars, stages and auditoria, and infrared transmission systems for the hard of hearing — London Press Service.

Gregory Peck says cinema being destroyed as an art form

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — Veteran Hollywood actor Gregory Peck has said that large corporations were destroying the cinema as an art form.

"The technology is terrific and the effects are terrific, but there's something missing in the human element — I think it's rather tiresome," he said.

Peck, one of the few remaining stars from Hollywood's golden era, is in Australia to film a cameo role for a television mini-series of the classic film he starred in, *Moby Dick*.

He was contemptuous of what he called "formula films" of the modern Hollywood and said the success of recent off-beat and low budget Australian films, such as *Shine*, were proof "formula films" weren't necessarily the best. "It's been discovered a certain kind of film can be exported worldwide and can bring in enormous amounts of money," he said.

"When you have a giant conglomerate behind a movie, the fellows at the top are not really terribly concerned about the artis-

tic element, they're concerned about the bottom line."

"It's commerce for them ... gratuitous violence just for the sake of titillating an audience — I don't approve of it at all."

Naming the Australian hit film *Babe* as the last movie he'd seen that sent him out of a cinema happy, Peck said other Aussie films like *Muriel's Wedding*, *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert*, *Breaker Morant* and *Dead Calm* were proving movies did not need to fit the corporate formula to be successful.

"You make a contact — there is a human relationship between you and the filmmaker ... you walk out feeling you've had an experience."

"*The Film Babe* defines the word charm; absolutely charming and amusing despite the fact that the leading character was a pig."

Peck appeared to still be in mourning for the recent deaths of his friends and colleagues James Stewart and Robert Mitchum.

"You manage to hang on to your equanimity when these fellows shuffle off,"



Gregory Peck

he said. "Those were Cary Grant's words: 'When my daughter has a child and I

have a grandchild I will be ready to shuffle off' ... and he shuffled off at the age of 84."

Chinese pay high price for tobacco revenue

By Benjamin Kang Lim
Reuters

BEIJING — Wang Jie puffed one pack of cheap, unfiltered Chinese cigarettes a day for 30 years. She will likely soon be a statistic — one of the hundreds of thousands who die each year in China from smoking-related diseases.

The 65-year-old retired aluminium plant worker is being treated for lung cancer at the Beijing Chaoyang Hospital but does not even know. She lies in a ward for people with respiratory problems because her family doesn't dare to tell her that she has cancer.

Wang is almost certain to become one of the 500,000 people who die each year in China from tobacco-related illnesses.

Her medical treatment will cost the state tens of thousands of yuan (thousands of U.S. dollars) — several times her contribution to China's state tobacco monopoly.

She is one of China's 300 million smokers who have made the country's billion-dollar tobacco industry into the largest single source of state revenue for a decade.

State revenue vs health cost

"I knew later that smoking wasn't good but I couldn't

control it," said Wang, sitting on her hospital bed in a ward she shares with seven people with respiratory problems.

The costs to China from early deaths, lost productivity and medical costs as a result of smoking now exceed its gains from tax revenue.

China collected 41 billion yuan (\$4.9 billion) in cigarette taxes in 1993, but economic losses caused by smoking totalled 65 billion yuan, World Health Organisation (WHO) figures show.

"It looks like the losses (from smoking) outweigh the gains," Weng Xinzhi, vice-president of the Chinese Association on Smoking and Health, said in an interview.

One in every four people in China smoke. China burns 1.6 trillion cigarettes a year, making it the world's largest tobacco producer and consumer.

As part of China's fledgling anti-smoking drive, the Chinese capital of Beijing hosted the 10th World Conference on Tobacco or Health on Aug. 24-28.

The conference would focus on the tobacco industry's expansion into developing countries, the targeting of women smokers, tobacco litigation and legislation.

It remains to be seen

whether the conference will make a dent in the industry.

More Chinese to die from smoking

The number of people dying from smoking-related diseases in China each year is expected to quadruple to two million by 2025, health officials say.

The first three causes of death in the world's most populous nation — cancer, cardio-vascular diseases and respiratory diseases — are all related to smoking, health officials say.

Wang, dressed in blue and white striped pyjamas and staring blankly into space, recalled how she became addicted.

When cigarettes were in short supply and rationed in the 1960s, Wang asked her work unit for cigarette coupons to give to her husband who was a heavy smoker.

To cover up her request for extra cigarettes for her husband, she was forced to start smoking herself in public.

Cheap thrill fuelled habit

"Cigarettes cost a few cents then...I can't remember the brand," said Wang, reluctant to give details.

"There were no good cigarettes in those days and our economic situation was not good," Wang said.

She kicked the habit last January and was hospitalised this month after she lost her appetite, became too weak to walk and felt nauseous. Doctors declined to say how much longer she had to live.

Wang took 30 years to learn her lesson, but hopes her family will catch on to the dangers sooner.

"When I smell cigarettes now, I stay away," she said. "I've asked my (two) sons to smoke less and they have agreed," said the mother of five.

Wang is unusual in a nation where few women smoke but in which most men are addicts.

Not all convinced of dangers

However former chain-smoker Sun Jianzhong, 42, a boiler plant workman, is more typical of the immense problem China faces if it is to cut its health bill.

"I was very healthy...I never got sick," said Sun, whose smoking brought on lung and heart problems in 1987.

The plump, bespectacled Sun puffed up to two packs a day for 17 years. Despite breathing difficulties, an intermittent cough and sev-



Doctors Zhang Hongyu (centre) and Yang Yuanhua (left) study X-ray results as a despondent Wang Jie, 65, sits on her bed in a Beijing hospital. Wang, a retired factory worker who has smoked for 30 years, is being treated for lung cancer and is soon likely to be a statistic — one of the hundreds of thousands who die each year in China from smoking related diseases (Reuters photo)

eral trips to hospital, he did not give up smoking until 1992.

Now admitted to the Chaoyang Hospital, Sun's lips and legs were blue from

lack of oxygen. Tubes hooked into his nose supply oxygen to his nicotine-poisoned body.

He spent about 12,000 yuan on cigarettes during

the 17 years of his habit. His employers, a state-owned boiler plant, have paid 50,000 yuan in hospital and medical costs.

His illness forced him to

give up work in 1994, but Sun remained pro-choice.

"I'm not opposed to others smoking. I also don't encourage others to smoke," he said.

Smoking can trigger permanent increase in lung-cancer risk

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Toni Baran gave up cigarettes in 1982. Still, to her it's no wonder that 30 years of smoking three packs a day probably did irreparable damage to her lungs.

A new study suggests long term smoking throws a biological switch, encouraging both healthy and mutated lung cells to multiply thus permanently increasing the odds of developing cancer.

That's not news to Mrs. Baran, who now teaches stop-smoking classes in Honolulu.

"I'm not plastic, so where's the surprise?" she said. "You can't do that kind of behaviour for that long and be surprised that there's a price to pay for it."

The University of Pittsburgh study, released last Thursday and published in the August issue of the *Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, looked at lab-grown lung cells from 37 non-smokers, light smokers and heavy smokers.

"Once this switch is turned on, it appears to be

permanent, which may explain in part why long-term ex-smokers who have not had a cigarette in over 25 years are still at high risk for getting lung cancer," said Dr. Jill Siegfried, who directed the study.

Heavy smokers were defined as those who had more than 25 "pack-years," smoking the equivalent of one pack a day for 25 years or two packs a day for 12 and a half years.

The researchers found an abnormal protein on the surface of lung cells from the

heavy smokers. The protein, gastrin-releasing peptide receptor, attracts a type of hormone that stimulates cells to divide.

"The more cell growth you have, the greater the chance that one of those mutated cells will be the one that grows," Dr. Siegfried said.

The harmful protein was not present in the light smokers, but Dr. Siegfried said a larger survey would be needed to determine when irreversible damage sets in.

Other researchers said Dr. Siegfried's findings were significant.

Dr. Vincent Miller, a lung-cancer researcher at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Institute in New York, said the study is the

first to explain why ex-smokers are twice as likely to develop lung cancer as those who have never smoked.

Many smokers mistakenly believe that when they stop, their lungs will eventually

become healthy again, said Dr. Frank Curtitta of the National Cancer Institute. He said this study shows why that doesn't happen.

But Eric Hunsaker of Pittsburgh, who has smoked cigarettes for nine years,

said the knowledge that he may be on the way to damaging his lungs permanently would not make him quit.

"I don't think any study will make you say, 'gee, I'm going to stop smoking,'" Mr. Hunsaker said.

Slow progress in lung cancer battle

DUBLIN (R) — When Declan O'Farrell was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1992, he thought he had been given a death sentence.

Aged just 34, Mr. O'Farrell had stopped smoking up to 30 cigarettes a day two months earlier, when he started coughing up blood. By the time he went to the doctor he could barely walk 50 metres a day.

"The first reaction was total and utter shock. The fact that I was 34 at the time meant there was general disbelief among my family and friends," he said.

Five years later Mr. O'Farrell, a musician from Mullingar, 65 kilometres outside Dublin, is free of all signs of the disease and speed walks up to 32 kilometres a week.

He has recovered largely with the help of cancer-killing drugs, known as chemotherapy, a treatment he said was "at times very painful and traumatic," with side effects including severe weight loss, diarrhoea and fatigue.

But very few of the 350,000 people who will be diagnosed with lung cancer in the United States and European Union countries this year will match O'Farrell's recovery. On current form, 87 per cent are likely to be dead within five years, and 95 per cent will eventually die of their disease.

Biggest cancer killer in U.S and EU

Like the battles of World War I, progress in the fight against lung cancer, now the biggest cancer killer in the U.S. and most of Europe, is marked in fractional territorial gains rather than great sweeping advances.

In the two decades between 1973 and 1992, the numbers surviving for five years after diagnosis rose to just 13 people in every 100 from 12, and compared with 40 in a 100 for cancers in general.

One problem is that symptoms such as blood in sputum, and repeated bouts of bronchitis and pneumonia, are often not evident until the disease is well advanced.

However despite the grim

record, the mood among 2,600 physicians, radiologists, scientists and carers at the Eighth World Lung Cancer Conference in Dublin this month was one of cautious optimism.

A handful of new drugs developed in recent years appear to offer the promise of nudging up survival rates and markedly improving the quality of life of sufferers, easing painful and debilitating symptoms.

Dr. Desmond Carney, secretary general of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer and an oncologist at University College, Dublin, said that 10 years ago patients with non-small cell lung cancer, the most common form of the disease, were almost never given drugs.

"We now believe we are at the stage where all patients with all types of lung cancer should be considered for chemotherapy," he said.

Scientists at the five-day conference said there was growing evidence that combinations of new and old drugs were helping to combat the disease directly and also shrinking tumours, making surgery and radiology more effective.

Among the drugs raising hopes are Bristol-Myers Squibb's Taxol, Eli Lilly's Gemzar, Smithkline Beecham's Hycamtin, Rhone-Poulenc Rorer's Taxotere, Vinorelbine, licensed to a number of companies by France's Pierre Fabre, and Irinotecan, licensed by Japan's Yakult Honsha Company.

"Dozens of clinical trials around the world are testing different combinations of new drugs and old faithfuls such as Cisplatin and Etoposide, developed by Bristol-Myers. Drug interaction with radiation is also being studied.

Modest but real improvement in survival

David Johnson of the Vanderbilt University Cancer Centre in Nashville told the Dublin conference that "new drugs and new drug combinations appear to provide a modest but real

improvement in the survival of patients, including those with far advanced... disease."

Results from a number of Vanderbilt studies presented in Dublin showed survival rates of between 40 and 60 per cent, sometimes at two and three years after diagnosis, which scientists said allowed optimism that five-year rates would also improve.

"These collective data indicate that the therapeutic nihilism of the past is unwarranted," said Dr. Johnson.

There is also growing optimism that breakthroughs in understanding the genetic basis of lung cancer will open the way to powerful biotechnology drugs and accurate tests for early signs of disease.

Threat of epidemic among younger people

But for all the hope, scientists and doctors at the Dublin conference clearly felt powerless against the might of tobacco companies and worrying signs that young people are taking up smoking in ever greater numbers. In the developing world the situation is even

worse — virtually all Chinese men are estimated to be smokers.

"Ninety-five per cent of lung cancer deaths are due directly to cigarette smoking, and the great fear we have is that we are facing an epidemic of this disease in young people, especially young women," said Dr. Carney.

Epidemiologist Peter Boyle told the conference that "smoking in many respects represents a great failure of public health. Forty years after the hazards of smoking were established, cigarettes are still responsible for 30 per cent of deaths in Britain and the U.S."

With the evangelism of the reformed, Declan O'Farrell describes himself as "quietly contemptuous of smokers." He won't allow smoking in his home and leaves when anyone lights up around him.

"Three of my family were not shocked into giving up smoking despite what happened to me, which highlights how addictive the drug is," he said.

ANSWERS

PUZZLES

(A) Spider.

(It has eight legs; all the others have six).

(B) Record.

(A disc is a record, and a record is an achievement).

(C) HELP THE PORTER

YORK,
HULL,
LEEDS
BOLTON,
BRISTOL.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

CELEBRITY PROPERTY

By Norma Steinberg

ACROSS

1. Madras
2. Star
3. Star's dance
4. Poetess
5. Construction site
6. To die
7. Out of living
8. Transliteration
9. Star's answering service
10. To — is humor?
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DOWN

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2. "Carmen" or "Norma"
3. Leads motor truck
4. Poem
5. Polka
6. Chari
7. Some earnings
8. To die
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Diagramless, 18x19

By Chuck Deodene

ACROSS

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2. Star's dance
3. Poetess
4. Construction site
5. To die
6. Out of living
7. Transliteration
8. Star's answering service
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SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

By Chuck Deodene

ACROSS

1. Murderer
2. Star's dance
3. Poetess
4. Construction site
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Israelis, Palestinians prepare jointly for Gaza bomb attack

NETZARIM (AFP) — Israeli and Palestinian security forces held an unusual joint exercise near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip Wednesday to evacuate dead and wounded from a mock bombing, officials said.

But the Israeli army was quick to stress that "regretably" the operation did not amount to the kind of cooperation in the fight against terrorism which Israel is demanding from the Palestinians as a condition for lifting painful economic sanctions.

Palestinian officials said the exercise began with the detonation of a mock bomb which "wounded" 14 Palestinians and 12 Israelis on an Israeli-controlled road which leads to Netzarim — a Jewish settlement in the heart of Palestinian-ruled Gaza and a frequent site of violence in the past.

About 100 Palestinian police and an equal number of Israeli soldiers, including medical personnel and a dozen ambulances, evacuated the casualties in an operation that took half the 75 minutes allotted to the exercise, security officials said.

A year ago Israeli troops and Palestinian police fought a deadly gunbattle on the same road during rioting which erupted after Israel opened a new entrance into an archaeological tunnel near Muslim holy sites in Arab east Jerusalem.

The road was also hit by a suicide bombing last April which only killed the bomber and wounded several Palestinian passersby but missed the Jewish settlers who were presumably the target.

An army spokesman said Israel "welcomes the cooperation on humanitarian issues" with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), which Israel has been pressing unsuccessfully to launch a wide-scale crackdown on armed militant groups following a double suicide bombing in Jerusalem last month.

"Regretably the exercise does not include cooperation against terrorist activity or intelligence cooperation," the spokesman said.

Asked if the training was designed to prepare for a possible new outbreak of fighting between Israeli and Palestinian police, the spokesman would only say the aim was "to address any scenario where there would be a need to evacuate wounded or killed on the Netzarim road."

Other than charging around \$15 a year for schooling, UNRWA has also had to cut international staff by 15 per cent to 135 and cancelled the hiring of 250 new teachers needed to cope with 11,000 new students this year.

Other cuts include an immediate freeze on university scholarships, all cash emergency assistance for hardship cases and shelter rehabilitation.

"There is now no other choice than setting these very cruel measures in motion. I am very sorry it has to come to this. There is no other way to save the agency," Mr. Hansen said in Geneva Tuesday.

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the two countries" is suitable to start some JRV projects adding that the coming days and weeks will "witness the implementation of some."

The Israeli official, who is in charge of Israeli relations with Arab countries, said Israel had finished planning some desalination projects but "these ventures cost huge capitals and need foreign financing."

"During the visit of Prime Minister Netanyahu to Japan... some Japanese firms expressed their interest to invest in these projects and to join a desalination scheme."

Mr. Mjalli said that among the JRV projects that would be implemented are "those which could be implemented in a very short span of time."

"There are several proposals, such as linking Aqaba with Dead sea factories through a rail-

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Mr. Netanyahu, who wrapped up a visit to Japan on Tuesday, said the Japanese are not against having their funding and expertise harnessed for an Israeli-Jordanian water desalination project.

"The government of Japan is prepared to allocate funds and know-how to this end. They asked for a detailed proposal. Had they not wanted to go ahead, they would have said it was difficult or dangerous," said Mr. Netanyahu following his meeting with Japanese officials.

Among the desalination projects the Kingdom is eager to launch a \$100 million project, that would provide the Kingdom with additional 50 million cubic metres (MCM) of drinkable water.

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Gaza refugees continue protesting U.N. cuts

(Continued from page 1)

strike "so that the entire school year will not be wrecked."

Over 150,000 Palestinian children attend UNRWA schools in the Gaza Strip.

UNRWA provides aid to a total 3.4 million Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

UNRWA has received just \$207 million from aid donors and expects to have \$220 million in hand at year-end, which leaves a \$20 million deficit for the year, according to UNRWA head Peter Hansen.

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Israel ends month-long blockade of Bethlehem

(Continued from page 1)

the confrontations, raising fears of a replay of armed clashes between the two sides a year ago which left 85 people dead.

On Wednesday the streets were quiet as Palestinian police, in preparation for the end of the blockade, prevented youths from approaching Israeli lines.

The only confrontation came when troops scuffled briefly with Palestinian political and religious leaders from Jerusalem and Bethlehem who tried to meet on the Israeli side of the main army road-block outside the town.

Mr. Netanyahu nevertheless renewed his charge that Mr. Arafat was fomenting street violence.

"We have solid information that the PNA is encouraging popular uprisings to further aggravate the crisis," he said.

But Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy came out in favour of lifting the overall closure on the terri-

road... among tens of projects that have been submitted, we will implement those projects for which financing is available," Mr. Mjalli said.

Mr. Netanyahu, who wrapped up a visit to Japan on Tuesday, said the Japanese are not against having their funding and expertise harnessed for an Israeli-Jordanian water desalination project.

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Poverty persists in Asia despite economic miracle — World Bank

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Asia's continued economic prosperity could be threatened by the continuing problem of poverty, in which some 900 million Asians live, the World Bank said in two reports.

While in East Asia poverty has decreased with unprecedented economic growth, India's

development rate has been much more modest and the country has 300 million people in poverty, the reports noted.

The reports show that poverty has fallen dramatically in East Asia — down 27 per cent from 1975-85 and a further 35 per cent from 1985-95. The declines have been

attributed to macroeconomic stability, the accumulation of human and financial capital, the opening of markets and a high-level of personal savings.

The decline in poverty in East Asia is the steepest ever seen in the developing world, the bank said. While in 1975 six out of

10 people in the region lived in poverty, that number has been dramatically reduced to two out of 10 today.

The most populated countries in the region, China and Indonesia, together accounted for 92 per cent of those living in poverty in the region in 1975.

Since then, China has seen its poverty rate plunge 63 per cent while Indonesia's rate fell 82 per cent.

Even greater reductions were seen in Thailand, where the poverty rate fell 90 per cent and in Malaysia, 95 per cent.

Social indicators such as life expectancy, infant mortality, and number of school-age children attending school also went up, the bank noted.

But the East Asia study, entitled "Everyone's Miracle?", says efforts need to be redoubled to fight poverty.

"After three decades in which rapid growth and reduced inequality were the hallmark of the East Asian economic miracle, inequality is becoming more widespread," the bank said.

There is still widespread poverty in countries in transition such as Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia and Vietnam, where the poor are concentrated in rural regions.

In addition, the bank found that poverty is concentrated among some social groups, especially minority groups, in countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand.

Finally, countries like China and Thailand are seeing an increased disparity between developing urban areas and stagnant rural ones.

The disparity threatens to not only lower the rate at which poverty is being reduced but also put a brake on the growth rates of these countries by threatening their social cohesion, the bank warned.

Noting the recent turbulence on financial and currency markets caused by the Thailand crisis, the bank's report adds that "any impact on growth which could translate into slowing progress in reducing poverty would be cause for great concern."

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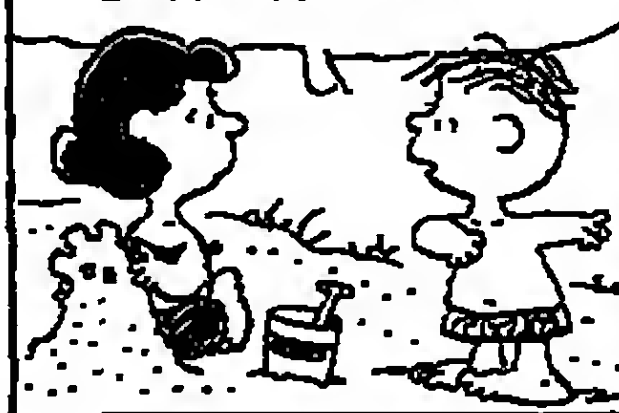


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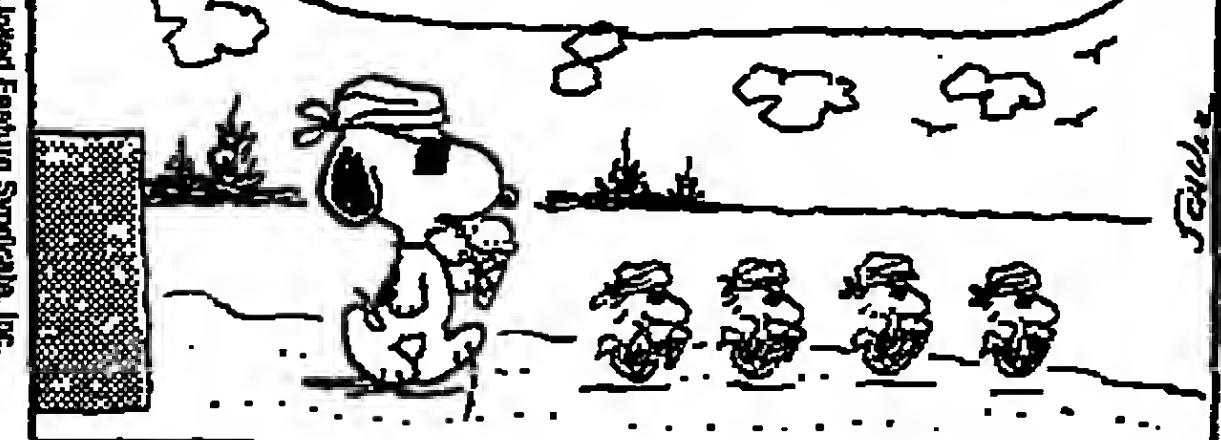
SOME PIRATES JUST LANDED ON THE BEACH! A REAL NASTY LOOKING BUNCH!



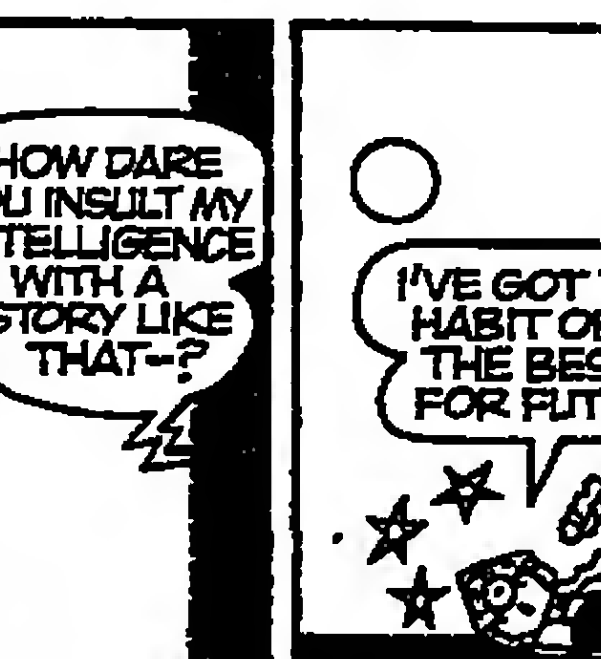
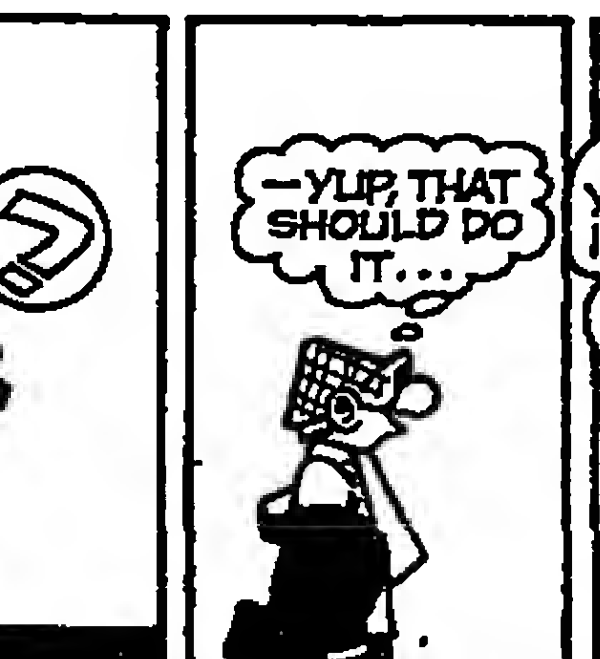
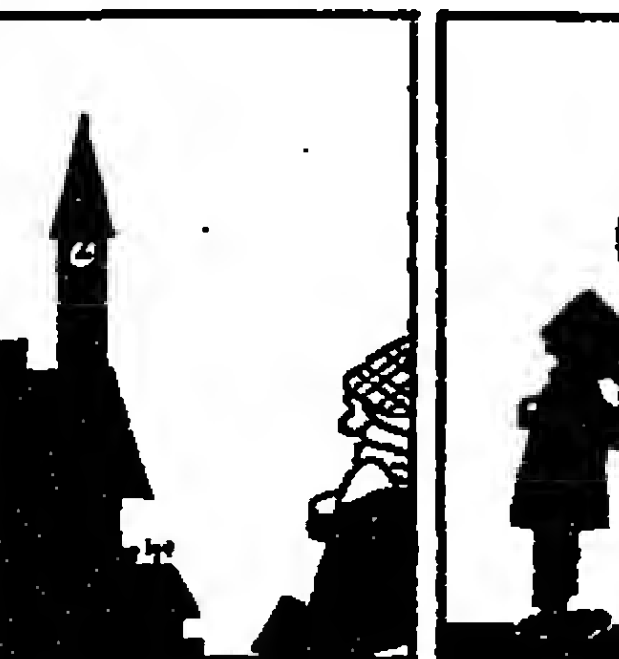
I WONDER IF THEY'RE HERE TO LOOK FOR BURIED TREASURE.



THEY HAD CHOCOLATE, STRAWBERRY, AND MARBLE FUDGE, BUT I'M GLAD WE ALL ORDERED VANILLA...



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates

| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CAD | ITL | SEK | DKK |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| US Dollar | 1.0000 | 1.3662 | 0.6301 | 1.5119 | 117.48 | 1.3837 | 1801.25 | 2.0800 | 6.2235 |
| DE Mark | 0.5417 | 1.0000 | 0.3410 | 0.8221 | 63.43 | 0.7544 | 974.85 | 1.1257 | 3.3692 |
| GB Sterling | 1.5870 | 2.8315 | 1.0000 | 2.4113 | 186.83 | 2.2118 | 2860.75 | 3.3031 | 9.8842 |
| CH Franc | 0.6584 | 1.2142 | 0.4141 | 1.0000 | 77.33 | 0.9168 | 1185.71 | 137.27 | 4.8834 |
| JP Yen | 0.0085 | 1.5711 | 0.5357 | 1.2927 | 1.0000 | 1.1858 | 153.22 | 176.96 | 3.2957 |
| CA Dollar | 0.7175 | 1.3305 | 0.4505 | 1.0944 | 1.19 | 1.0000 | 1295.55 | 1.4978 | 4.4812 |
| IT Lira | 0.0006 | 1.0251 | 0.3496 | 0.8843 | 1935.18 | 0.7738 | 1.0000 | 11.54 | 3.4545 |
| NL Guilder | 0.4808 | 0.8830 | 0.3029 | 0.7308 | 56.48 | 0.6784 | 866.12 | 1.0000 | 2.9928 |
| FR Franc | 0.1607 | 0.2987 | 0.1012 | 0.24094 | 18.85 | 0.2239 | 33.41 | 33.4100 | 1.0000 |

Middle Eastern Currencies

| Currency | USD | JOD | SAR | BAT | QAT | KUP | AED | EGP |
|----------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| US Dollar | 1.0000 | 0.7080 | 3.7506 | 0.3770 | 3.6400 | 0.3053 | 3.6728 | 1538.00 |
| Jordan Dollar | 1.4124 | 1.0000 | 5.2975 | 0.5325 | 5.1412 | 0.4311 | 5.1876 | 2172.32 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.2668 | 0.1888 | 1.0000 | 0.1005 | 0.97 | 0.0814 | 0.98 | 410.07 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 2.65 | 1.8781 | 9.9491 | 1.0000 | 9.86 | 0.8097 | 9.74 | 4079.78 |
| Qatar Dinar | 0.2747 | 0.1945 | 1.0304 | 1.0304 | 1.0000 | 0.0839 | 1.01 | 422.53 |
| Kuwait Dinar | 2.2760 | 2.3194 | 12.2870 | 1.2358 | 11.82 | 1.0000 | 12.03 | 5038.49 |
| Emirate Dinar | 0.2723 | 0.1928 | 1.0212 | 1.0206 | 0.9811 | 0.0831 | 1.00 | 418.75 |
| Lebanese Pound | 0.85 | 0.4603 | 2.4386 | 0.2451 | 2.3667 | 0.1963 | 2.3880 | 2.2006 |
| Egyptian | 0.2994 | 0.2092 | 1.1080 | 0.1114 | 1.0753 | 0.0902 | 1.0850 | 454.36 |

Energy

| Oil | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Brent | 18.99 | 19.17 | 12.04 | 19.17 | 1917 |
| WTI | 20.14 | 20.64 | 12.54 | 20.64 | 2064 |
| Bonny | 18.99 | 19.17 | 12.04 | 19.17 | 1917 |
| Dubai | 17.80 | 17.70 | 11.00 | 17.70 | 1770 |
| UFL Gas | 217.00 | 213.00 | 130.00 | 213.00 | 21300 |

Mid-East Currencies

| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY |
|-----------|--------|--------|---------|--------|-------|
| SA Riyal | 0.2668 | 0.1888 | 0.1005 | 0.0814 | 0.98 |
| AE Dirham | 0.2723 | 0.1928 | 0.1005 | 0.0814 | 0.98 |
| KW Dinar | 2.2760 | 2.3194 | 12.2870 | 1.2358 | 11.82 |
| BH Dinar | 0.3770 | 0.4902 | 1.0708 | 1.0708 | 10708 |
| CY Pound | 1.3595 | 1.3337 | 1.1572 | 1.1572 | 11572 |

Metal Prices

| Metal | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY |
|-----------------|------|-------|------|-------|--------|
| Gold (oz) | 323 | 323.5 | 200 | 323.5 | 32350 |
| Silver (oz) | 4.52 | 4.54 | 2.85 | 4.54 | 45400 |
| Platinum (oz) | 413 | 416 | 260 | 416 | 41600 |
| AL (3 Months) | 1844 | 1848 | 1150 | 1848 | 184800 |
| CU (3 Months) | 2188 | 2190 | 1380 | 2190 | 219000 |
| Zinc (3 Months) | 1484 | 1489 | 920 | 1489 | 148900 |
| Lead (3 Months) | 620 | 623 | 390 | 623 | 62300 |
| Ni (3 Months) | 6730 | 6750 | 4200 | 6750 | 67500 |

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|
| USD | 5.43 | 5.39 | 5.69 | 5.78 | 5.67 |
| GBP | 6.94 | 7.00 | 7.12 | 7.18 | 7.51 |
| JPY | 0.44 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.58 | 0.47 |
| DEM | 3.12 | 3.21 | 3.35 | 3.43 | 3.44 |
| FRF | 3.23 | 3.31 | 3.40 | 3.52 | 3.58 |
| CHF | 1.33 | 1.38 | 1.53 | 1.43 | 1.70 |
| ITL | 6.73 | 6.70 | 6.60 | 6.43 | 6.37 |

Main Equity Indices

| Index | Value | Change | % Change | High | Low | 52 Wk High | 52 Wk Low |
|------------|----------|--------|----------|--------|--------|------------|-----------|
| New York | 7984.52 | -28.71 | -0.36 | 8023.1 | 7988.5 | 8021.2 | 7988.5 |
| DOW JONES | 336.96 | -2.89 | -0.86 | 339.47 | 336.28 | 336.35 | 336.28 |
| FTSE 100 | 4983.7 | 25.3 | 0.51 | 4994.1 | 4962.5 | 4994.1 | 4962.5 |
| Nikkei 225 | 19167.12 | -95.11 | -0.49 | 19394 | 19125 | 19394 | 19125 |
| CAC 40 | 2960.63 | -18.84 | -0.63 | 2992.6 | 2951 | 2992.6 | 2951 |
| DAX | 4253.57 | 30.24 | 0.72 | 4278.5 | 4241.7 | 4278.5 | 4241.7 |

Energy

| Commodity | Last | Delivery |
|------------------|-------|----------|
| Coffee (c/lb) | 170 | Spot |
| Cocoa (\$/ton) | 1896 | Spot |
| Sugar (\$/ton) | 347.5 | Spot |
| Wheat (\$/ton) | 143 | Spot |
| Soya (c/lb) | 22.02 | Spot |
| Tee (c/lb) | 185 | Spot |
| Barley (\$/bush) | 0 | Spot |
| Rice (\$/ton) | 450 | Spot |

JOD Cross Rates

| Currency | Buy | Sell |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| US Dollar | 0.708 | 0.710 |
| GB Sterling | 1.1262 | 1.1318 |
| DE Mark | 0.3808 | 0.3827 |
| CH Franc | 0.4639 | 0.4662 |
| FR Franc | 0.113 | 0.1136 |
| JP Yen | 0.5999 | 0.6029 |
| NL Guilder | 0.3382 | 0.3399 |
| IT Lira | 0.3912 | 0.3932 |

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

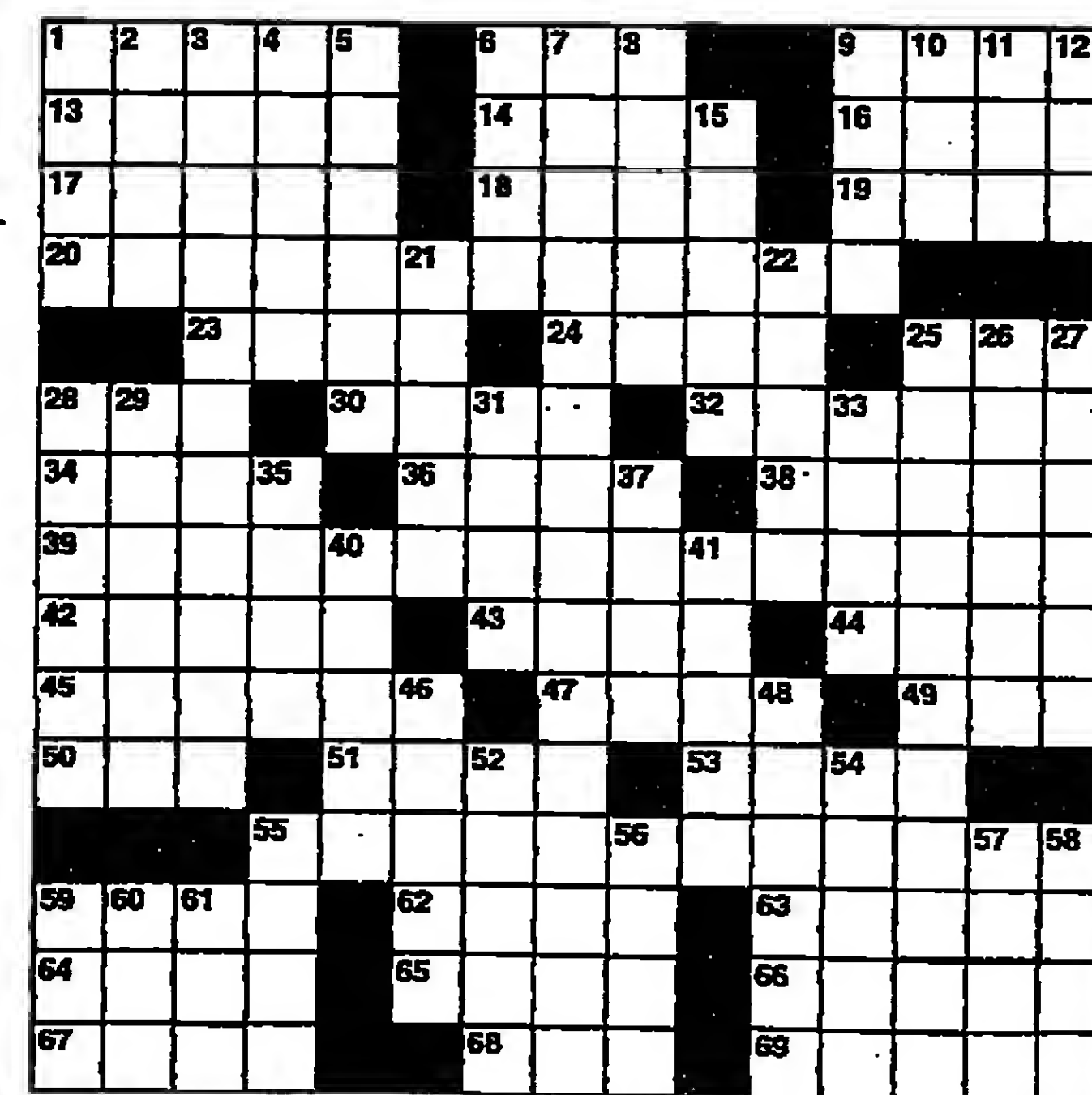
THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- On - Old
- Smoky
- Total: abbr.
- Domino
- Adds -
- "Serpico" author
- Healing plant
- City on the Seine
- Gumbo
- Full of antics
- Sinatra's musical arranger
- Spitsville
- Part of n.b.
- Harper Valley org.
- Bossy sound
- Metallic dross
- Neutral pigments
- Long vestments
- Hormone
- Follows secretly
- Compromise
- More mean-spirited
- Antitoxins
- Give out catcalls
- Scents
- Blanc
- Murals, e.g.
- Opp. of art.
- Verne captain
- Algerian port
- Hale and healthy
- Carson's successor
- Aleutian island
- "Dad"
- Antelope (unfortunately)
- School near Windsor Castle
- Gay
- Jane or Zane
- Newt
- Kingly

DOWN

- Mountain lake
- Woodwind
- He played "The Emperor Jones"
- Pinguid
- Papal capes
- Cupid
- Taking advantage
- Slow, in music
- Labyrinth
- Chicken - king
- Family member
- Vital
- say
- Baseball's Ryan
- Milk: pref.
- Favorite one
- Bank figure
- Maintain
- Tree snakes
- Owner of the "Chicago fire"
- Cow
- Does stage work
- Mecca trek
- Watch winder
- Submarine
- Estefan resident
- "La Mancha"
- Bristles
- Certain molecule
- Framing choice
- Hersey town
- Shrewd
- Polly, to Tom Sawyer
- Dancer Montez
- Of an epic time period
- Chronicle
- Miscalculate
- Humorist Bill



by Raymond Hamel

Puzzle solved:

| | | |
|-------------|----------|-------|
| JURA | AHARD | JIBE |
| UNIT | PIKIE | ODIN |
| DUMP | ONTON | FIELD |
| EMERALDS | OSAGE | |
| ERLE | HOTLER | |
| CUTSCORNERS | | |
| LEWES | ORGANZAS | |
| OLIN | SAVOY | IONA |
| PENTACLE | AGLOW | |
| FULL | OF BEANS | |
| GRAVITY | POUR | |
| ASIR | VERTICAL | |
| PEPPER | DINE | AONE |
| ESCE | BONUS | NONO |
| DEAR | INEPT | SPAN |

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HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You should not believe everything you hear today, since some of it could be second-hand information. A fellow associate may be confused. Use your charm with others to strengthen friendships which have lasted.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You may not like a labour condition today, and it is best to trust this instinct. Labour to clarify this. Friends should prove cooperative at this time, thereby you can handle any difficulties. Labour at trying to be happy.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Turn up the charm and beauty today, dress well, thereby you will become successful. Get your important duties under control and postpone plans for pleasure until your difficulties are solved and there is peace with you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A clever loved one can help you to solve a difficulty in an unexpected manner today, so seek out the answers from him or her. Great potential exists for cooperation among fellow associates at this time.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You should not succumb to distractions today, so keep your mind upon doing whatever is expected. Concentrate on one issue, listen to an expert on the subject. Work and shop alone, since only you can decide what you want.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Seize the moment to labour on some creative affair for which you have much talent at this time. Have fun with humorous friends later this evening, thereby you will enjoy being with close friends and loved ones.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You should not make any important agreements today while some confusion exists, however do try to labour on home affairs which you have put aside. Avoid an irresponsible scheme which could backfire in your face.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Focus on what you are confident in today, and don't concern yourself about an issue which puzzles you. Steer clear of a person who is frustrated and let him or her be by themselves to cool off and regain their composure.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Remain cheerful today and try to put straight a friend who may be short-sighted at present. Business interests will flourish if they are well attended and not allowed to disappear which could happen in the days ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Avoid a worldly disagreement in the morning today so that you do not get distracted in handling your career activities to their logical conclusion. You should rely upon higher-up for assistance with a new project.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be polite yet firm with those who would distract you in the morning. An adviser can be of assistance to you today, however a newcomer is not. You may meet someone quite irresistible, quite irresistible, so make the effort to be with this person.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Put aside promises you are not sure how to handle today, and see those who can give you good advice. Focus on personal health, exercise which can be beneficial to your physical well being, and emotional state.

Birthdate of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Business

Official report es
number of tourists
rise to 1.5m in y

BETTER HALF.

software developers a
compression program th
fits six workers into c

JUMBLE

THAT SC
by M
Almost
there

WOTNE

KEPOD

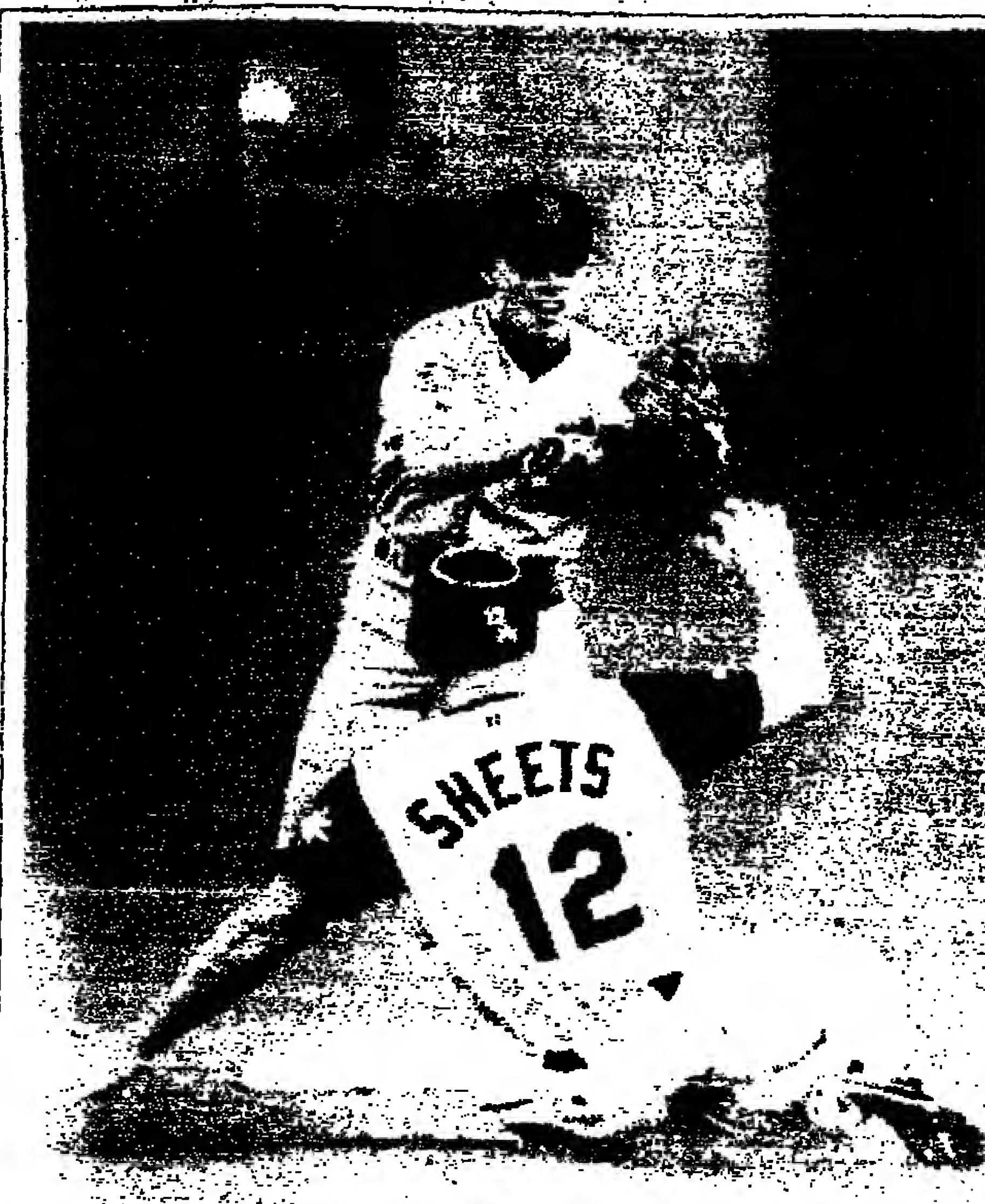
SETTEA

WEEWAK

Nov
tom
gas

Print answer here: TO

Jumbles: BIRCH FLUT
Answer: What the miner
their gold — THE



As Seattle Mariners' Andy Sheets slides into second base, Boston Red Sox shortstop John Valentin throws to first, completing a double play in the bottom of the third inning at the Kingdome in Seattle. Seattle won the game 8-2 (Reuters photo)

Shearer could be back in action in November

LONDON (R) — Alan Shearer could be back in action in November, Newcastle Chairman Sir John Hall said on Wednesday.

The England striker had not been expected to return until the new year after suffering a bad pre-season injury.

But Sir John told BBC radio: "He's making progress. I think it was stated probably November-ish or something like that, the doctors seem to be indicating."

Shearer was the world's most expensive soccer player at 15 million pounds (\$24.1 million) when he joined Newcastle from Blackburn in 1996.

But he has suffered various injuries in his career and in a pre-season tournament game against Chelsea he badly damaged some ankle ligaments and had to undergo an operation.

Sir John said: "He's going to see a specialist. Shearer will still miss England's last two World Cup qualifiers, against Moldova next month and Italy in October."

Wihdat meet Faisali Thursday in delayed Shield final

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JSF Shield record (runner-up in parenthesis)

AMMAN — The Kingdom's soccer champions Al Wihdat meet Al Faisali Thursday evening in the delayed Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) Shield final.

Both teams have met ten times in past Shield matches with Al Faisali winning six times.

They met twice in the 1987 and 1993 finals with Al Faisali on both occasions.

Thursday's final match was due to have been held May 26 but was indefinitely postponed because of Al Faisali's request to enlist foreign referees for the highly-awaited match grouping the countries top two teams.

While the JSF regulations bar foreign referees from officiating local matches, Al Wihdat did not at first object to Faisali's demand but the JSF did not reach a decision, which led to the indefinite postponement of the match.

Citing JSF rules which state that any club refusing to play a final match be considered a loser with a 3-0 result, Al Wihdat then issued a statement stating that they would not play the match and consider themselves the winners.

Following that, Al Faisali asked for a JSF general assembly meeting which also led to a change in the ticket sales formula. However, Al Wihdat rejected the new formula and decided to boycott the Premier League and Jordan Cup contests.

After meeting with JSF President HRH Prince Abdullah, the club only decided to return to competition after the JSF brought back the old formula regarding revenues, which

| | |
|------|--------------------|
| 1981 | Jazireh (Wihdat) |
| 1982 | Wihdat (Amman) |
| 1983 | Wihdat (Ramtha) |
| 1984 | Amman (Hussein) |
| 1985 | Amman (Faisali) |
| 1986 | Jazireh (Faisali) |
| 1987 | Faisali (Wihdat) |
| 1988 | Wihdat (Hussein) |
| 1989 | Ramtha (Wihdat) |
| 1990 | Ramtha (Hussein) |
| 1991 | Faisali (Wihdat) |
| 1992 | Faisali (Hussein) |
| 1993 | Ramtha (Qadissieh) |
| 1994 | Hussein (Faisali) |
| 1995 | Wihdat |
| 1996 | Ramtha (Hussein) |

allocate 35 per cent to the two clubs contesting the match, 35 per cent to be split between the remaining eight clubs in Premier League, 25 per cent to the JSF and 5 per cent to the first and second division clubs.

The formula rejected by Al Wihdat had less revenue for the clubs contesting the match, and more to the JSF.

Al Wihdat and Al Faisali will play again next Friday in a delayed Premier League match when the fourth week of the competition resumes Sept. 1 following a two-week break because of Al Wihdat's participation in the Arab Cup Winners' Cup in Egypt.

MIDDLE-DISTANCE

runners Hicham El Guerrouj (L) of Morocco and Gabriella Szabo (C) of Romania laugh as runner Frankie Fredericks (R) of Namibia jokes with a gold ingot at the Berlin IAAF athletics meeting, August 26. El Guerrouj, Szabo and Fredericks won the biggest jackpot in athletics a share of 20 one kilo bars of gold. The gold bars are divided between those who win specific events at the four most lucrative meetings in the sport (Reuters photo)



SPORTS IN BRIEF

Prost hoping to sign Hill

PARIS (AFP) — Formula One team boss Alain Prost is hoping to sign Damon Hill if the two can agree on money it was reported here on Thursday. "I want the best driver possible on condition that he is not too expensive. I have my budget and I am sticking to it," Prost told L'Equipe newspaper. Both Hill and Prost are believed to be holding talks this week to see if an agreement can be reached. Peugeot, who supply Prost's engines, are keen to have a high profile name alongside Frenchman Olivier Panis who signed a new two-year contract with the team last week. Prost has worked with Hill at Williams and has made no secret of his respect for the 37-year-old defending world champion.

Dutch club signs Australian

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Dutch first division club Heerenveen Tuesday signed Australian Raphael Bove from Sydney's UTS Olympic club. Bove, a 20-year-old defender or midfielder who has made 10 appearances for Australia's Olympic Games squad, signed a two-year contract with Heerenveen.

Bogus Botafogo swindle Spaniards

MADRID, Aug 26 (AFP) — A phantom team passing itself off as famous Brazilian outfit Botafogo endured a disastrous tour of Spain, losing a string of friendlies as the real side went about its business in the Brazilian championship. The penny dropped when "Botafogo", thrashed 6-0 by a Salamanca side short of match practice prior to the start of the Spanish season, laboured to a 2-2 draw against third division Lorca after losing 2-0 to second division Logrones. The visitors' cover was blown when Botafogo President Fernando Mendes told the Brazilian media that his team had not left the country, never mind been anywhere near Spain — which is thousands of kilometres away. Logrones President Jose Manuel Fernandez played down the incident. "It's not so serious. We wanted to play a friendly and we're satisfied," he said. "We don't mind who we play." No-one has yet discovered the identity of the bogus Brazilians, whose current whereabouts is unknown.

Celtic clinch UEFA place

GLASGOW (R) — Glasgow Celtic produced a stunning second-half display to beat Austrian side Tirol Innsbruck 6-3 on Tuesday and claim a place in the UEFA Cup first round with a 7-5 aggregate win.

Trailing 2-1 from the first leg of their preliminary round tie, the Scots blew the lead twice in the first half with goals from Simon Donnelly and Andreas Thom cancelled out by efforts from Christian Mayrleib and Francis Sebercyms.

But in the next 45 minutes the Scottish side found the net another four times, including two in the dying minutes, to

produce a dramatic conclusion to the evening.

Donnelly swept home a penalty after 68 minutes to restore Celtic's lead and two minutes later Craig Burley gave them the crucial two-goal advantage.

The 47,000 crowd at Parkhead were beginning to celebrate when Innsbruck pulled a goal back through gunnott krinner eight minutes from time. With the aggregate score all square at 5-5, Innsbruck were ahead on away goals.

Morten Wieghorst got Celtic's fifth of the night and Burley put the tie beyond doubt with his second in the last minute of the game.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HENCH

MAKE NO MISTAKE

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 854
♥ 7652
♦ QJ93
♣ A4

WEST
♠ K763
♥ A K J 10
♦ 7652
♣ A 7

EAST
♠ J 1092
♥ Q 3
♦ 8
♣ Q 1098632

THE LIDDING:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

Ultra-weak preempts are a two-edged weapon. While they might propel the auction to uncomfortable heights, they do provide a blueprint of the holding to aid the enemy in the play.

Without East's preempt, there is a reasonable chance that North-South might have reached an unmakeable four-heart contract.

After a one-diamond opening bid by South and a one-heart response, our choice of rebid would be a jump to two no trump to protect South's tenaces from a lead through. That would have led to the same three-no-trump game rather than four hearts, but declarer would have worried more about the outcome since the location of the enemy cards would be unknown.

West led the king of hearts, then shifted to a club. How would you play the hand? If the defenders are experienced players, you can claim your contract and they will concede. If not, go through the ritual. Play low from dummy and win the second trick as cheaply as possible. Cross to the ace of clubs, return to the king of diamonds, cash the remaining high club and run the diamonds. West is down to nothing but hearts and spades, and, since the defender has at most three hearts, the remaining cards are spades. Simply lead a heart from dummy and, if East follows, cover with the queen. West can cash as many heart tricks as the defender holds, but then must lead a spade into your major tenace. You make nine tricks regardless of who holds the king of spades, losing at most four heart tricks.

JORDAN TIMES
TEL: 699634, 684311

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fresh from Dana's terraced gardens**

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- * grape leather malban * dried tomatoes
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Amman 11183
JORDAN

Israel demolishes home of blind man with ten children and wife

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli bulldozers demolished three Arab houses in Jerusalem Wednesday, including the home of a blind and handicapped Palestinian man, his wife and 10 children, witnesses said.

Ali Abu Swayy, 40, scuffled with police and municipal workers in a vain attempt to stop the destruction of his tin-roofed stone house in the Wadi Kaddum section of Arab east Jerusalem, the witnesses said.

Mr. Abu Swayy, who said he lived in the house with his wife and 10 children, was briefly detained by police to allow a bulldozer to raze the building.

Surrounded by police and paramilitary border guards, bulldozers also destroyed two others houses which were under construction in the same neighbourhood and residents said nine other families in the area had received demolition warnings.

Israeli police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said the houses torn down Wednesday had been built without municipal construction permits.

But Palestinians protest that Israel, in a bid to prevent the growth of the Arab population in Arab east Jerusalem, which both Palestinians and Israelis claim as their capital, systematically refuses requests for building permits.

"You should know that

your prime minister is leading you to war with these actions, you will pay a high price," shouted Fathi Jabari to the police as they tore down the walls of two houses being built by his brothers Tayseer and Yasser.

His sister, Widad Jabari, complained that the family had received no warning of the demolition.

"Suddenly the soldiers arrived and the bulldozers began destroying the houses," she said.

"I asked a city official who was here where the warning was and he showed me a letter dated a few days ago, but I refused to take it," she said.

The Israeli government has stepped up its policy of demolishing unauthorised Arab housing in east Jerusalem and the West Bank since a double suicide bombing last month in Jerusalem which killed 16 people, including the attackers.

Prior to the bombing there had been a lull of several months in house demolitions, apparently in an effort not to further sour already tense relations between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

But since the bombing, 37 houses have been razed in Jerusalem alone, along with nearly 20 in the occupied West Bank, prompting charges that the demolitions

(Continued on page 7)

Israeli army shuts down mosque, charity office

BANI NAIM (AFP) — The Israeli army closed on Wednesday a mosque and an Islamic charity office in this West Bank village near Hebron, charging the facilities were run by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), officials said.

An army unit arrived at dawn in Bani Naim and sealed the mosque and four rooms which served as offices for the Islamic Charity Association, an army spokesman said.

A school for orphans run by the Islamic charity in the same building was not closed, residents said. Bani Naim is in a zone where the Israeli army controls security but civilian affairs are run by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The army said it found Hamas propaganda in the charity offices, including leaflets praising suicide attacks against Israel. The offices were ordered closed for an initial period of two months, the army spokesman said.

But the president of the charity, Noah Manassarah, denied any connection to Hamas and said any inciteful documents must have been planted by the Israeli soldiers.

The army said Wednesday's operation was part of broader crackdown on Hamas's infrastructure.

Investigators have yet to identify the bombers or offer concrete evidence linking the attack to Palestinian groups, but Israel has blamed Hamas.

Hamas, the biggest Palestinian movement opposed to peace accords with Israel, has claimed responsibility for most major bomb attacks against the Jewish state over the past four years.

The group maintains a widespread network of schools, clinics and social welfare offices across the Palestinian areas which Israel charges are used to build an alternative power structure to PNA and to recruit militants for attacks against Israel.

Despite the lack of concrete evidence linking the Jerusalem bombing to Palestinian groups, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has maintained painful security restrictions and economic sanctions against the Palestinians since the attack.

He refuses to lift the punitive measures until the PNA arrests prominent Hamas and other organisation's leaders and dismantles the groups' military networks. President Yasser Arafat has so far refused to launch such a crackdown.

Hamas rejected on Tuesday an appeal from the PNA to halt armed attacks against Israel. "We repeat our commitment to the option of resistance."



BATHING IN SPANISH TOMATOES: Festival revellers throw tomatoes at each other during the annual "Tomatina," the biggest tomatoe fight in the world, Wednesday in the eastern Spanish village of Bunyol. Some 100 tonnes of tomatoes are used in the fight until they are reduced to pulp (Reuters photo)

Embassy in Kuwait urges Americans to be careful

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) —

The U.S. embassy has issued a warning to its citizens in Kuwait urging them to be alert after an anonymous threat was made against an American target, an official said Wednesday.

"The American embassy has received a report of an anonymous phone call claiming knowledge of a possible attack against an American location in Kuwait on August 28," according to the message sent to AFP by an embassy official.

"No specific location was mentioned and the embassy is not able to say how reliable this report is," it said.

"Nonetheless, the embassy urges all American citizens in Kuwait in the upcoming days to exercise particular caution and maintain a heightened awareness of their surroundings," it continued.

The statement added that the embassy is "monitoring this situation very closely" and further notices will be issued "as warranted by changes in this situation."

There are about 8,000 American citizens living and working in Kuwait, excluding a rotating battalion of some 1,500 combat troops that exercise here and air force personnel that patrol the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

Unspecified threats have been made against U.S. interests here in the past, including one last October when the embassy issued a similar warning, but no attack followed.

A British embassy official said a warning had been issued to its citizens, which number about 4,000, in light of the new threat to American interests.

"We have been advised that there has been a security threat against American interests in Kuwait over the next few days," the warning said.

It said British nationals "should be extra vigilant,

Kuwaiti police investigate prostitution ring

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) —

Kuwaiti security is investigating a prostitution ring, mainly involving Russian women, which solicited clients outside hotels and in shopping malls, a newspaper said Wednesday. "The security forces are carrying out an investigation concerning numerous young European women who arrived in Kuwait some time ago to practice organised prostitution," the daily Al-Wakeel reported.

"Most of the young women, who have practised this vice here for some time, are Russians," the newspaper said, quoting informed sources. "The young women hunt for clients outside hotels and especially in markets and shopping malls, claiming to be European tourists without revealing their real nationalities," the paper said. Interior ministry officials were not available for comment. Other Gulf states, such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), experienced an influx of prostitutes from Russia and the former Soviet Republics, who headed for the region after the collapse of Communism in search of wealthy clients.

Especially if their activities bring them into close contact with American interests."

Elsewhere in the Gulf, the U.S. embassy in Saudi Arabia reissued a routine warning to the 40,000 American citizens living there to be alert for new terrorist attacks.

The U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia was targeted in the November 1995 attack on a military training building that killed seven, including five Americans, and the June 1996 bombing of an air force housing complex that killed 19 U.S. airmen.



Undated files show (from left to right) Libyan Hanna Ben Amer, Italian Nerina Bernabei and Libyan Khaled Eter, accomplices of Libyan Musbah Eter Abulgasm, who was arrested along with his three accomplices Tuesday in Rome (AFP photo)

Italian police arrest Libyan in '86 Berlin disco bombing

ROME (AP) — A Libyan man indicted for the 1986 bombing of a Berlin disco that killed three people, including two U.S. soldiers, has been arrested in Rome, Italian police said Wednesday.

The blast also injured 230 people, many of them American soldiers. It provoked a retaliatory attack by American warplanes on two Libyan cities that killed at least 15 people.

German and U.S. officials say Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi ordered his spies in what was then east Berlin to bomb the disco in west Berlin.

Italian police said Musbah Abulghasem Eter, 40, was arrested Tuesday night on a Rome street on a multiple murder warrant issued by the German federal police. He did not resist arrest.

He will be extradited to Germany, said Nicola De Cristofaro, vice director of DIGOS, the anti-terrorism squad of Italian police.

Eter was indicted in Berlin in February and fled Germany in July, a spokeswoman for the Berlin courts and prosecutors, Michaela Blume, said. The arrest warrant was issued after he fled.

De Cristofaro said it appears Eter had been in Italy for several weeks. He said Germany alerted Italy on August 20.

Three other people — two Libyans and an Italian — were arrested and charged with helping him evade capture.

De Cristofaro said Italian police were investigating what sort of support network Eter had in Rome. Two of the local suspects, both women, were arrested on the street and the third at a Rome apartment.

In February, German prosecutors indicted five people, including Eter, for the attack on the April 5, 1986, La Belle disco. Eter then confessed and agreed to help investigators.

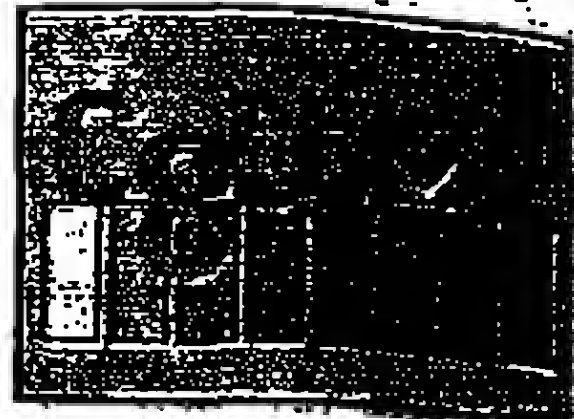
After he fled Germany in July, German police tracked him down through intercepted

telephone conversations from Germany to an apartment and public phones in the neighbourhood where he was arrested, De Cristofaro said.

He identified the other three people arrested Tuesday as Hanna Ben Amer and her husband Khaled Eter, both 34 and both Libyan citizens, and Nerina Bernabei, a 34-year-old Italian woman with a record of prostitution arrests.

Ben Amer was carrying a fake ID for Eter when she was arrested, police said. All three have been charged with aiding and abetting a fugitive.

De Cristofaro incorrectly identified Eter as the sixth and final suspect in the disco bombing. Still at large is the alleged mastermind, Said Rashid, also suspected in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland. "If we get Rashid, and he confesses that the order came from the top, I won't shy away from investigating Qadhafi," Berlin prosecutor Detlev Mehlis told Stern magazine in May.



Fleas force police to flee station

ROTTERDAM (AFP) —

A police station in Rotterdam was forced to shut down for the night after it became infested with fleas spread by two officers returning from an assignment, police said Wednesday. Police said the two officers on Tuesday evening went to arrest a suspected robber in a poor neighbourhood and were met by an army of the small wingless insects that forced them to beat a quick retreat. Back at the station, the two officers — and the tiny creatures that had jumped on their uniforms — went about their business until the entire police force was itching so badly that everyone was ordered to flee the station.

Hendrix guitar, Lennon self portrait for auction

LONDON (R) — A guitar belonging to Jimi Hendrix, costumes worn by the Spice Girls and a self-portrait of John Lennon are up for auction in a rock 'n' roll memorabilia sale in London next month.

Hendrix's Black Fender Stratocaster guitar is expected to fetch more than 180,000 pounds at the auction at London's Hard Rock Cafe. A sketch made by Lennon during his 1969 "Bed-in" with Yoko Ono in Montreal is expected to fetch about 25,000 pounds and the costumes worn by British Five-Girl band the Spice Girls to launch a television channel last year carry an estimate of 1,500 pounds each.

Hollywood actress Geena Davis files for divorce

LOS ANGELES (R) —

Oscar-winning actress Geena Davis filed for divorce Tuesday from her husband of nearly four years, Finnish-born film director Renny Harlin, her publicist said. Davis, 40, also announced her departure from the Forge, a production company she co-owned with Harlin.

spokesman Paul Bloch said. Bloch said Davis, who won a best supporting actress academy award for "The Accidental Tourist," has formed a new production company, Genial Pictures.

Basinger rallies for elephant's welfare

ALBUQUERQUE (R) —

Actress Kim Basinger urged the U.S. government to clamp down on the mistreatment of elephants and other animals in circuses across the country. Speaking in Albuquerque, where an elephant was found dead inside the trailer of a travelling circus earlier this month, Basinger urged Agriculture Secretary Daniel Glickman to strictly enforce existing animal welfare laws and punish any circus that violates them.

Younger's 'six gun' goes for over 200 grand

SAN FRANCISCO (R) —

A collector has paid \$211,500 for a Smith Wesson revolver taken from the famous outlaw Cole Younger after he robbed a Minnesota bank in 1876, the auctioneers said. The Younger gun, on the market for the first time, was one of the highlights of a sale of historic arms and armour held at Butterfield in San Francisco. A local collector bought the gun, which had a pre-sale estimate of \$50,000 to \$60,000, the auctioneers said.

main suspect in bomb plot in

YORK (AFP) — The

main suspect in a plot to blow up the New York subway system Friday was charged on federal charges of conspiracy, officials said.

Abraham Abu Mezer, a Palestinian national, 22, of Jordan, was indicted by a federal jury on the charges, which include conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction, a crime punishable by life imprisonment.

Men are also charged with conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction, a crime punishable by life imprisonment.

The planned bomb attack was the first in a series of attacks on the subway system since the September 11, 1980, attack, which killed six people and injured more than 100.

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